Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Soviet Scholar Cited on Gorbachev Visit

FL0802164089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Soviet scholar Konstantin Frolov asserted in Moscow today that the visit by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in April will strengthen friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences told the press that, in his opinion, the presidents [title as heard] of Cuba and the Soviet Union, Fidel Castro and Mikhail Gorbachev, will discuss scientific-technical cooperation, trade, and other bilateral matters.

He said existing ties will be stimulated further and other areas in their beginning stages will be developed. The Soviet scientist asserted that the world has high expectations of Gorbachev's visit to the Island of Freedom. He added that when summit meetings take place, international issues are always clarified.

Bulgaria's Lukanov Heads Economic Delegation

FL0802191789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] The 20th Cuban-Bulgarian intergovernmental commission meeting for economic and scientific-technical cooperation began in Havana today. Andrey Lukanov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers [title as heard] and minister of foreign economic relations, is heading the Bulgarian delegation.

Antonio Esquivel, vice president of the Council of Ministers of Cuba, welcomed the Bulgarian leader at Jose Marti International Airport.

[Begin recording] [Lukanov, identified by caption and speaking in vernacular with simultaneous Spanish translation] Our relations can be valued very highly inasmuch as they are a true example of internationalism, of mutually favorable development of relations between two fraternal countries. These relations have gone through various stages. They have expanded and matured more and more in each one of those stages.

I can say that the meeting of the bilateral commission on economic and scientific-technical cooperation that we are going to hold with Comrade Esquivel and the other comrades of the two groups of the commission is going to deal mainly with the future. We are going to give special attention to electronics. This sector is developing in a very dynamic way in Cuba. There are very interesting projects in the sphere of agriculture, the foodstuffs industry, and in the geology sector; that is, mines. These and other topics will be analyzed in the meeting.

[Antonio Esquivel, identified by caption] This 20th meeting is taking place in the 25th year of the development of our relations with dear Bulgaria. Comrade Lukanov has clearly expressed the objectives of this 20th meeting. We can sum up by saying that the goal of the two groups is to activate to the maximum our cooperation and our collaboration and to continue advancing in the path of the exemplary relations that exist between Bulgaria and Cuba. [end recording]

SDAR Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

FL0802163089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] (Mohamed Filati), foreign minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR], arrived in our country early yesterday morning. The distinguished visitor was welcomed by Vice Foreign Minister Giraldo Mazola and other Cuban Foreign Ministry officials. The Western Saharan foreign minister is on a working visit to our country. He is accompanied by (Ali Mamou), an official of that country's Foreign Ministry.

Solidarity With Namibia Meeting Begins

FL0802213589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2042 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] With Namibia's independence process, 1 April, a seminar for solidarity with the African nation began today in Cuba. Represented at the meeting are countries from the Americas and the Caribbean.

At the meeting's opening, Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Giraldo Mazola stressed the importance of the conference because it is being held at a time when the permanent members of the UN Security Council are attempting to alter Resolution 435.

Mazola noted that the number of people from the UNTAG [UN Assistance Group for the Transition Period] should not be reduced because this would imperil the self-determination of the Namibian people and would permit Pretoria to manipulate the elections in that country.

He said that the Namibian population has increased by 50 percent, which means that more electoral colleges will have to be opened, and the UN forces will guarantee the honesty of those commissions since they are faced with an increased number of South African troops. [as heard]

PCC Economics Departments Hold Meeting

FL0802154489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] A national meeting of the PCC economics departments began yesterday. It was presided over by Lionel Soto, secretary of the PCC Central Committee. The first point of the agenda was an assessment of the tasks carried out last year on the improvement of the economy management system based on the agreements reached by the PCC Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat in February of 1988.

This meeting will end today with an analysis of the production of certain industrial goods and crafts in high demand.

Grenada

Jones Wants Another Term for Ruling Party

FL0602201289 Bridgetown CANA in English 1926 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Feb 6, CANA—Grenada's Deputy Prime Minister Ben Jones says the New National Party should be given another five years in office because it had brought peace, stability and prosperity to the country.

An election is not constitutionally due in Grenada before March next year but there is consistent speculation here among political observers that a poll could be held by the middle of this year.

Jones, who hold the portfolios of external affairs and agriculture, said in a radio programme on state-owned Radio Grenada, that the country needs the NNP's type of leadership.

"If we can continue to project the kind of leadership that has led the country over the past four years, I think the people of Grenada would go again for that kind of leadership," he said.

Grenadians were ready for the elections, he said.

"I think they would return my party to power because we have brought peace, we have brought stability, we have restored respect for human rights and human dignity...we brought prosperity," he remarked.

Jones' NNP is expected to face its stiffest challenge at the polls from the parliamentary opposition National Democratic Congress, comprised [of] breakaway NNP members led by George Brizan, and the Grenada United Labour Party, headed by Eric Gairy.

The ruling New National Party government has been headed by Prime Minister Herbert Blaize since 1984 elections. Blaize was unseated as NNP political leader at last month's annual convention by outspoken Public Utilities Minister Dr Keith Mitchell, but remains as head of the government.

Jones, who is a close ally of Blaize, and often at loggerheads with Mitchell said that a process has already started in Grenada which should continue.

"I think the people of Grenada are aware of that and I think it is the aim of my party to offer them that kind of future," he said. "I think we need another five years to cement it to the extent that it can stand the buffetings of other philosophies," he added.

Haiti

CATH Calls on Avril, Government To Resign

FL0602164189 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] A union organization, the CATH [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers], held a news conference this morning. Rothschild?

[Rostschild] Well, the CATH is calling on General Prosper Avril to resign. In a news conference this morning, the CATH said clearly that the demands formulated by the Haitian people during the two general strikes on 21 November and 17 January have still not been satisfied by the Avril government, which is thus not taking the demands of the majority seriously. CATH declared its solidarity with the antigovernment demonstrations currently going on in Haiti's main towns and called on the government to resign. Let's listen to CATH Secretary General Jean Auguste Mesyeux:

[Begin Mesyeux recording] We are now going to shift into a higher gear. We know that Gen Avril has many means at his disposal. He has many phony [malachonn] organizations that he pays to crush the people's movement. We know that he has many spy networks that he is organizing in Haiti. He has many detectives [atache] who have been rehired. But when the country is paralyzed from north to south and from east to west for God only knows how many days; when Cap-Haitien, Gonaives, the South, the Grande Anse, Jacmel, and the central plateau do not come into Port-au-Prince [as heard], we are going to see what the general does. We are going to see what tune he will dance to.

And that is what is going to happen next week and in the coming weeks.

The people are asking Gen Avril to step down. If he is an honest man; if he does not want to suffer the same fate as General Namphy—to have to go and eat codfish and (?dumplings) in the Dominican Republic—he had better listen to the Haitian people.

Next week Charlemagne Peralte, Toussaint Louverture, and Jean-Jacques Dessalines are going to step out of their tombs and stamp their feet in anger—because if Dessalines, Peralte, Louverture, and Capois la Mort were here, this impertinence, this insolence, this humiliation, this slap in the face given the Haitian people by the Dominican Republic could not have been given.

Ever since those two periods, (?which have ended).... [changes thought] We see that only one place remained calm: Cap-Haitien.

People of Cap-Haitien, people of Gonaives, revolutionary leaders, Caco [rebel bands under the American occupation] leaders: The reactionaries are no longer

going to divide you. They are not going to give you money now. They are not going to tell you that the nation's problems do not concern you.

I think that most of the people who (?die) in the Dominican Republic as braceros [preceding word in Spanish, reference to Haitian cane cutters] are peasants from the north. [end recording]

That was CATH Secretary General Jean Auguste Mesyeux at a news conference this morning. The CATH also calls on the people who are going to participate in Carnival 1989 to chant anti-Avril slogans.

MPP Leader Interviewed on 'Plot' Memorandum

FL0602165789 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Excerpts] In a news conference held yesterday, Papaye Peasants Movement [MPP] leader Chavannes Jean-Baptiste said he considered the minister of information's memorandum a maneuver aimed at keeping the government in power for life, and killing—murdering—the Haitian people and diverting their attention from their principal demands. Jean-Baptiste said that the peasants of the MPP were not going to back off. They would organize or die.

Jean-Baptiste declared that the government had begun applying its plan. The MPP leader asked the government to resign and for Information Minister Tony Virginie Saint-Pierre, if he is unable to produce proof of this plot, to be sanctioned by the courts.

We interviewed MPP leader Chavannes Jean-Baptiste last night:

[Begin recording] [Jean-Baptiste] We heard this news yesterday afternoon over Radio Soleil. I myself was working, and someone came running to get me, saying: Come listen to something! [passage omitted] This morning we heard it again, calmly, and recorded it. We then analyzed it; and really, there are unimaginable, truly unthinkable things in it! We cannot imagine a minister treating such serious things so lightly! [passage omitted]

We were shocked. But at the same time, it showed us the kind of crooked wheeling and dealing, the kind of plotting, the kind of [words indistinct] going on, you see, because Saint-Pierre feels his position is sort of in danger. The government feels it is sliding downhill. So now they are setting up plots based on nothing at all—plots so they can crush the Haitian people's (?organization), crush the people who are working with the people, destroy the poor wretches whom poverty has already destroyed! It is really, really unimaginable. This goes to show that, indeed, in this country, anything really is possible!

[Reporter] So that's your impression, Chavannes, of the document—how you felt. How about the peasants in the MPP? How did they take it?

[Jean-Baptiste] [Passage omitted] Well, what the peasants are saying is... [changes thought] Because there were things that were happening that we hadn't yet understood. Only after learning about the document did we come to understand certain things. Just imagine! There was an investigating committee that came to visit the MPP last week—I wasn't here when they came—and they were asking the peasants questions, such as where the MPP is, what kind of work it is doing, how many people are in it, how far it reaches, and so forth—a series of questions like that. They also asked a number of questions about me. On that same occasion they invited me to go meet the president and things like that. The peasants listened and then asked them how come nothing had been done about a number of demands that the MPP had made and so forth. The peasants told them that good section chiefs were being fired and replaced with macoute section chiefs and, in connection with the business of the macoute peasants who had stolen their lands, that now they were hearing that (?their) lands had been turned over to the macoutes, and a number of things like that.

The group told the peasants they shouldn't make a fuss over the radio and that they could go talk to the government, which would fix everything—whereas, we have been writing letters and doing all kinds of things in connection with this section chief business for the past 2 or 3 years and nothing has ever changed. So the peasants, for their part, are saying: Well, it is really true that all the thanks that dogs get is a kick! Because the government is really not doing a thing in the central plateau. Any soil conservation work that is done is done by the MPP. If you see a spring being piped anywhere, generally it is being done by the MPP. If any work is being done to save the land, it is being done by the very peasants themselves, as best they can, with the support of the peasants movements!

And now, upon hearing that a big plot has been mounted? Well, as far as the peasants are concerned, they see clearly: The government doesn't want them to get Creole pigs. They don't want to give them schools and dispensaries. As the peasants say: Well, it is because on 7 February it will have been 3 years. The anniversary of the congress is coming up. Well, now the government is hastening to get a jump on things and set up a plot in order to intimidate the peasants, to scare them. But the MPP peasants have always said that their decision is organization or death. Now the government must produce proof of the weapons it has claimed that they possess and with which they are going to attack before 7 February. They must produce proof of this armed peasants revolt. Or else, if he cannot explain, not only must the minister resign, but the government must explain (?and) resign too.

The MPP peasants say they are not backing off on this—that they will must either die or find a way to live a decent life. They are very clear on this.

[Reporter] [Passage omitted] Is the MPP thinking of initiating legal proceedings against Minister Saint-Pierre to make him produce proof of his accusations?

[Jean-Baptiste] Yes, that was the peasants' first reaction. Because an accusation like that is a setup, aimed at getting thousands of peasants massacred! [passage omitted] A document like that could really make them start wiping out peasants throughout the central plateau and the Artibonite, the way it has already happened in (Danty) and Jean-Rabel. However, (?this would be even worse) because now it would be an official order. Now the minister is asking that the Army be sent to wipe out the peasants!

Still worse, this minister is a jack-of-all-trades [toutis]. He takes on the role of interior minister, Army, police. And now he is even telling the president what to do! And what's worse, what we found most striking, is that they have already begun to execute his orders. He asked for an investigating committee, and an investigating committee came. [passage omitted]

This is aimed at getting the peasants murdered, at crushing the MPP, at crushing all peasant groups and all grassroots parishes in Savannette, in the Artibonite, and everywhere! This is, let us say, a plot against all peasants, against all the wretched poor, against Haiti itself! If (?anyone can) set up a plot such as that, make an accusation such as that, without being able to provide proof, well.... [changes thought] Either there are courts or there aren't! If the courts cannot sanction this minister—or whoever is responsible for this—if he cannot produce proof, well, the country's money no longer needs to be spent on paying a Justice Department at all any more. [end recording]

Miragoane Protests Reportedly Not 'Political'

FL0602162389 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Report by Miragoane correspondent Yves Marie Jasmin]

[Excerpts] No schools were open in Miragoane today, 2 February 1989. In order to cast more light on this matter, we visited several schools and interviewed both students and teachers. That is how we learned that the 1 February demonstration by racketeers, street vendors, and wharf workers had sown panic among schoolchildren in Miragoane.

The school run by the monks was overrun by the demonstrators and several window panes were broken. At the school run by the nuns, which was also overrun by the demonstrators despite the fact that the gate was shut, the nuns in charge had to send all the students home. Also, the demonstrators played music on bamboo instruments for more than 30 minutes inside the school, which they turned topsy-turvy. That is why many parents and school authorities are asking for security, to prevent anyone at all from causing disorder among students working in class. [passage omitted]

Also, we point out that the demonstrations that have been in the streets here these last few days erecting barricades, burning tires, and preventing cars from passing along National Highway No 1 are not in the streets for political reasons—because during the uprooting of cassava plants period [summer of 1987], a period during which there were political demonstrations, all these people out in the streets today had always stayed at home.

Thus, when they say the slogan "Down with Avril" in Miragoane, it is not for political reasons. It is simply because contraband had begun losing (?ground) in Miragoane because of the [measures] in the joint communique by three ministries. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Governor General Warns Against Voting Violence

FL0602150189 Bridgetown CANA in English 1441 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 6, CANA—Jamaica's governor general, Sir Florizel Glasspole, has warned political thugs that they will fail to disrupt Thursday's general election here with violence, even as police reported eight overnight injuries connected with the campaign.

The military and the police force are there to ensure that no desperadoes or terrorists or trouble makers prevent anyone from voting," [no opening quotation mark as received] Glasspole in a speech broadcast on radio and television Sunday night.

"...The rights of the people must be guaranteed. Let those who prepare for violence (be warned) that violence will not prevail," he added.

Eight persons have been killed in politically-related violence since Prime Minister Edward Seaga announced the election date on January 15, and prior to Sunday, the police had reported 55 injuries. The police information centre (PIC) Sunday night's cases were scattered incidents in volatile sections of the capital, Kingston and St Catherine, west of it.

Violence in Jamaica's last contested general election in 1980 claimed over 700 lives in the nine-month campaign, as gangs in the slums of Kingston and a few other areas fought each other and intimidated opposing supporters. Both Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) and opposition People's National Party (PNP) leader

Micheal Manley consistently denied any connection with the gangs, but last year the leaders signed a political code of conduct aimed at reducing violence.

It bound them against inflammatory campaign speeches that could incite violence, and to drop candidates known to be involved in violence. The parties also denounced "the procurement, possession or distribution of weapons or ammunition of any sort by their members or supporters for use on political activity."

The agreement also established an ombudsman to investigate and aportion political blame for breaches of the accord when issues cannot be resolved by a bi-partisan committee.

Glasspole, the ceremonial head of state, said that when the accord was signed, "we knew violence would not be wiped out overnight, but we hoped for a renewed feeling of peace and calm." However, the recent turn of events, he said, had been worrying, with the use of violence to "frighten voters" in some constituencies. "Indeed, it is the terrorists or the worthless cowards who use these guns and knives or stones to frighten voters from exercising their franchise," the governor general added.

A week ago, Prime Minister Seaga claimed at a public rally that Manley's party was planning to unleash violence to climax on election day, in seven marginal constituencies in the hilly central spine of the island.

Seaga was chided by the political ombudsman, retired Judge James Kerr, who said that the manner of the charge at a political rally was "ill-timed and unhelpful in diffusing political tensions." Kerr also said the police had received no report of such planned violence. But Seaga repeated the allegation at a press conference Friday.

An opinion poll published here Sunday gave Manley's PNP a 14 point lead among people likely to vote in the election, and Manley later told journalists that violence could never be on his agenda.

"We are sensible enough to know that violence could never suit a party which will be running a country to which tourism is of vital importance,...that investment climate has importance for," he said.

The opposition leader, who has been claiming that documents recovered from an over-turned car indicated JLP plans for stuffing ballot boxes, questioned whether Seaga's charge about political violence, was "a smokescreen for a self-fulfilling prophesy."

"I hope it is not so," he said.

The PNP leader also announced that he has written to Seaga suggesting that both sides to the political ombudsman a list of areas over which they had concern and that local church and private sector organisations observe the process on election day.

Security Officials Discuss Voter Intimidation

FL0702191689 Bridgetown CANA in English 1736 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 7, CANA—Police and soldiers have been ordered to deal firmly with any attempts at intimidating voters or interfering with the process during general election Thursday, the island's security chiefs have warned.

Police commissioner, Herman Ricketts and Army chief of staff, Major General Robert Neish, in a joint statement Monday night, also appealed for public cooperation to make the election peaceful.

"A peaceful election in which the voters go to the polls without hindrance and fear and vote for the candidate of their choice is essential to the parliamentary democratic process," they said in the statement.

"Therefore, the security forces will not tolerate the intimidation of voters. We have issued orders to the security forces to deal firmly with any intimidation or interference of voters," Ricketts and Neish added.

Though not at the level of the last contested parliamentary elections in 1980 when hundreds died in a bitter nine-month campaign, there have been several incidents of skirmishes between supporters of the governing Jamaica Labour Party and the opposition People's National Party (PNP).

Police reported Thursday that eight persons have been killed and 83 injured in politically-related violence since Prime Minister Edward Seaga announced the election date on January 15. Only one person has so far been charged with any of the murders or shootings. He is Altiman Chambers, 37, accused of being involved in the killing of a man and wounding of two women in Spanish Town, 14 miles west of Kingston, on January 19. The DAILY GLEANER newspaper here said Tuesday that Altiman was a well-known activist of the JLP.

Police have also taken into custody two men in connection with the wounding of six persons returning from a political meeting Sunday night.

The violence, though not rampant, has occurred despite the signing last August of a so-called peace accord between Seaga and opposition leader Michael Manley.

The agreement called on election candidates to aviod inflammatory speeches that could incite violence, and the parties also eschewed "the procurement, possession or distribution of weapons or ammunition" to supporters.

However, there is concern here that the violence could escalate on election day in bids to frighten voters, especially in marginal constituencies. In fact, Seaga has publicly charged the PNP was planning to unleash violence in seven such constituencies—a charge firmly rejected by Manley.

The police said they had no information of such a plot and Seaga was chided for the timing and manner of this allegation by James Kerr, the retired Judge appointed to police the electoral code of conduct.

Seaga, who, despite opinion polls indication to the contrary, insists that the election will be close, made his allegation at a JLP rally. Kerr said if he had such concerns information should have been presented to the police and the other channels established for dealing with breaches of the code.

Manley and his PNP have argued that they would have nothing to gain from violence when opinion surveys by respected pollster, Professor Carl Stone, give them a 14 point lead in the popular vote.

"We are sensible enough to know that violence could never suit a party which will be running a country to which tourism is of vital importance...", Manley said.

The opposition have suggested that the JLP might be planning violence and other acts of electoral fruad and was therefore attempting to create a "smokescreen" with the allegations.

Manley called for churches and private sector groups to monitor voting in areas where both sides anticipated problems, but Ombudsman Kerr, has rejected the suggestion as impractical.

Kerr, in a letter to Manley, said that if implemented the proposal would stretch the security forces who would have to provide additional protection for the various groups.

"In my opinion, the strategies of the security forces will be sufficient to ensure safety at the polls," he said. An estimated 6,000 policemen and 3,000 soldiers will be on duty Thursday. Seaga last week signed an order for calling out the Army National Reserve to help in the election security. The security forces voted on Saturday.

Two Die in Election-Related Incidents

FL0802122389 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Violence has flared up again in Jamaica. A man was shot dead in the capital, Kingston, after trying to attack the information minister, (Olivia Grange). A second person died in an exchange of gunfire between supporters of two political groups.

In another incident, Prime Minister Eduard Seaga and 3,000 supporters were pelted with rocks and bottles in a district of Kingston yesterday. Police and troops fired warning shots.

Yesterday's deaths brings the total number of election-related deaths in Jamaica to 11. Opinion polls indicate that opposition leader Michael Manley is the most likely winner of the elections to be held tomorrow.

Last night was the last night of speeches and rallies before the election. The peace agreement signed by Prime Minister Eduard Seaga and his rival Michael Manley, as well as other political party leaders, appears to have helped Jamaica avoid the massive violence of the 1980 election, when more than 750 people died in political strife.

Church leaders and private sector organizations have been making appeals for calm during the election period. Today is to be observed as a day of no political activity out of respect for Ash Wednesday.

Health Official Updates AIDS Cases Count

FL0702233089 Bridgetown CANA in English 2049 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 7, CANA—Jamaica's AIDS count has moved to 80 with the diagnosing of nine cases in January, according to senior medical official, Dr Marion Ducasse.

Fifty of the AIDS victims have died, Ducasse told the GLEANER newspaper here.

Jamaica reported its first AIDS case in 1982. Ducasse, who heads the Health Ministry's Epidemiology Department, said that 33 of the cases were contracted inside Jamaica, while 20 were "imported".

The origins of the others were uncertain, she said.

EXCELSIOR Continues Presidential Interview

Opposition, Church's Role Viewed

PA0402023689 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 25 Jan 89 pp 1-A, 10-A, 11-A

["Part III" of report by Regino Diaz Redondo on interview with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari at presidential office on 20 January; quotation marks as published]

[Text] Several political parties have responded with seriousness and responsibility to my call to hold talks; at times, certain opposition members are motivated more by lively self-interest. They are slightly more virulent, but I respect them all. With others, there are respectful conversations and, on occasions, positive ones, the chief executive pointed out during part three of his interview with EXCELSIOR.

He talked about this with passion; it entertained him. He smiled as easily as he became serious:

"The National Action Party, the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution, and the Mexican Democratic Party, which is already in the process of registering again, have heeded my call."

He touched on many issues that concern the people. Without avoiding any, he talked more about some than others. I doubt this is by chance; this is how the president is. He weighs his time, phrases, and gestures. For example, with his usual parsimony, without changing the tone of his voice, he pointed out:

"Political parties and groups must be more responsible and representative; elections must be cleaner; there must be organizations encouraging the people's participation in and strengthening of those elections."

[Diaz] Would you be willing to allow political parties to be in charge of organizing elections and vote counting?

[Salinas] "In all countries, the organization of elections is the responsibility of the authorities to ensure that procedures follow the law."

However, he advocated sharing ideas: "The possibility of dialogue will increase to the extent that more internal differences within certain parties are decreased and eliminated."

[Diaz] What is your assessment of controversies within the Chamber of Deputies?

[Salinas] "I am very respectful of the legislative branch's autonomy. I believe some progress was made, but certain situations created great concern in the community and society; we must reflect on them."

[Diaz] I get the impression there was too much talk and few ideas. What do you think?

[Salinas] "Yes, but sometimes we heard good debates."

He again referred to the opposition—"let us call them opposition" the president said—and added:

"We know where we want to go; we have a course, and thus the initiative." However, Salinas reflected: "I do not see clearly what the opposition proposes, for example, with the foreign debt: Sometimes I hear them mention a moratorium, then I do not know what, and then that negotiations begin...."

Salinas denied that there are subversive movements in the country and reiterated that there were mistakes in the information given on election results. He asked that changes be made not only to this but to the current electoral atmosphere.

Because there were distinguished members of the church at his swearing-in ceremony, the topic has become one of politics, and this is how the president felt about this matter:

"Relations between church and state must be modernized. The government repects the various social organizations, among which stands the church."

[Diaz] Why the invitation to your swearing-in ceremony?

[Salinas] The church is a real organization within society, and all its representatives were there."

There was however, a forcefulness that leaves no doubt about this statement:

"The three basic principles of our great liberal tradition are a part of our Constitution and should remain untouched: separation of church and state, respect for freedom of worship, and no religious teaching in public schools.

"From here on, the church receives respect and recognition, because the Mexican people have a deep religious feeling that must be respected and recognized."

Our conversation continued as our cameraman, Gustavo Camacho, flashed his camera.

[Diaz] We could speak a little about political parties. It is evident that there continues to be great social irritation, as was shown at the polls last 6 July. According to the Federal Electoral Commission [CFE], you received 50.71 percent of the votes following the recount. This is unusual, because in the past the PRI candidate had won by a larger margin of votes. What do you think is the present position adopted by the opposition parties to gain ground on or to tarnish the image of the government you are heading?

[Salinas] Citizens can evaluate the attitude of the opposition parties by looking at what those parties are doing.

On 1 December, I called for a respectful and positive dialogue between the government and the parties. Some of them have responded in a serious and responsible manner to this call, especially the National Action Party. We have also had the participation of the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution and the Mexican Democratic Party, which is already in the process of seeking its registration.

I believe we must consider this to be a sign of a growing pluralism in our country, which consequently demands political modernization.

I have repeatedly said modernization will allow us to have better-informed citizens, with an education that can better prepare them for the political pluralism experienced in the country; we also will have political parties and groups that will be more responsible and representative, and we will have cleaner electoral processes; we will have organizations that can promote and strengthen the participation of all citizens.

We are involved in a deep process of political modernization. This is what led me to propose this dialogue among the various parties in the CFE to determine possible modifications to the Constitution or the Federal Electoral Code. Such modifications will depend on how much agreement is achieved.

[Diaz] Mr President: Do you support changing the Federal Electoral Code so the political parties will make up the CFE and so the government, through its government secretary, will not organize the vote count?

[Salinas] I have my own opinion about the modifications to the code, but I have insisted that they will depend on the degree of agreement reached among the various political parties in this dialogue, in this debate.

Concerning the organization of the elections, in all countries of the world the government authorities are responsible for the electoral processes, which are organized in accordance with what the law establishes.

[Diaz] Can you tell me what your relationship is with the so-called Mexican right wing and left wing?

[Salinas] One governs for everyone, regardless of political or ideological affiliation or preference. That is my responsibility. As is my duty, I have offered respect to all the country's political sectors; I have held a respectful dialogue with various members of those sectors and, on occasion, I would say the dialogue was also positive.

[Diaz] How is your relationship with the right?

[Salinas] With various members of the right it is respectful and positive. On occasion there have been members who act more with the emotion stemming from their particular interests and who have been a bit more virulent, but I respect and seek communication with all of them.

[Diaz] What progress has been made in this dialogue? I know you have spoken several times with the National Action Party. However, I know you have not held a dialogue with Cuauhtemoc Cardenas and with that sector of the Mexican left. Can you tell me the reason? What is the reason for this situation? What is preventing you from establishing an equal dialogue with both sides of the opposition?

[Salinas] I have issued the invitation to everyone, regardless of whether they come from the right wing or the extreme left wing; I have no preference for any side. Of course, I began the dialogue with the PRI, but the invitation is open. I announced it when I took office. I think that as these sectors are able to reduce and eliminate their internal differences, they will move toward this dialogue.

[Diaz] How far have you gotten in the important dialogue—in the case you were talking about—with the National Action Party?

[Salinas] The National Action Party members explained to me their views on the amendments and the parties. I admit now there is more competition. Our dialogue has been productive and useful. It has paved the way, no doubt, for the dialogue that is being held at the Federal Electoral Commission.

[Diaz] Within this framework of ideas, what would you say is the reason for the social irritation that became evident at the polls—in other words, the growth of the opposition parties?

[Salinas] The basic reason for this is a drop in the standard of living because of the crisis. This is also a result of a greater plurality in Mexicans' ideas and a real fact that must be recognized: There is more competition.

[Diaz] Is what happened in the debates—for example, at the Chamber of Deputies—democracy to you?

[Salinas] The legislative branch is a sovereign branch that I respect. I would say there have been actions within that branch that have certainly led to advances. There are situations that the community and society have viewed with concern and demand reflection on. However, I insist, there is a counterpart, and I see progress in the dialogue and the reaching of agreements inside that sovereign branch.

[Diaz] To what extent will the opposition pressure the government to solve the debt problem as soon as possible? To what extent will the opposition promote street demonstrations more violent than those already staged? Does the government foresee any other kind of action?

[Salinas] In the government, we know where we want to go; we have a course, and thus we have the initiative. Most of society participates because the government has outlined an agenda that reflects society's priorities. I cannot see clearly what the opposition proposes on the foreign debt, as you point out. I cannot say opposition; let us say oppositions.

"I cannot see clearly what the opposition proposes to do with the foreign debt, because sometimes they mention a moratorium; then they say no moratorium, but negotiation instead. The government's position is very firm; it places the initiative upon the international creditors and is in the forefront of Mexicans' demand to end the foreign debt burden."

[Diaz] I think there has been a lot of talk in the Chamber of Deputies, but it seems to me that ideas have been abandoned to make room for controversies. Would you agree?

[Salinas] Yes, and sometimes we have also heard good debates.

[Diaz] Just to finish with this political topic, not covering all topics—there have only been 51 days of government—I would like to ask you: What need was there for you to mention in your swearing-in speech that there were mistakes in the electoral information results, even announcing that you agreed to reform the Federal Electoral Code?

[Salinas] Because mistakes were made, and because the PRI also demanded electoral reforms not only to the code, but to the Constitution. What is happening right now is that no party has a sufficient majority in the Chamber of Deputies to make constituional reforms, although the PRI does have enough of a majority to reform the Federal Electoral Code.

"Consequently, this is why I have insisted that electoral reforms depend on the level of agreement we reach."

[Diaz] Do you believe these government measures will maintain the opposition's strength at the level it was on 6 July?

[Salinas] To the extent that the government takes the initiative in issues Mexicans consider fundamental—political modernization, debt renegotiation, economic modernization, social programs, and the modernization of relations between citizens, which are responses to the demands of civilian society—to the extent we lead the Mexican effort, which has resulted in a more solid situation and greater consensus.

[Diaz] How angry do you believe the people are?

[Salinas] That depends on areas. I would say there are serious economic demands created by the lowered standards of living, which undoubtedly have led to the degrees of anger mentioned. However, in response to the Stability and Economic Growth Pact, which is not the initiation of a strategy but the consolidation of the strategy that will allow us to defeat inflation; in response to the firm position of renegotiating the debt, which will allow us to grow again; and knowing there is a solution to the economic problem, the people are able to stand behind the adopted measures and have new hope for the recovery of the Mexican people's standard of living.

"In the political field, the government is leading reforms that will allow cleaner elections with increasingly serious and responsible political parties; here again, the people will find a means of expressing their complaints and participating.

"In the social field, my government's first action was to implement the National Solidarity Program, which, without waiting for a growth recovery, has already met the deeply felt needs of the groups most affected by the crisis: Indians and residents in the poor, peasant neighborhoods in urban areas, whose lands are the poorest.

"We already have definite responses in the areas of health, nutrition, housing, and education that respond to anger over those social issues."

[Diaz] Have you detected any subversive movement?

[Salinas] No.

[Diaz] Mr President, on another subject: Why did the government invite members of the clergy to President Salinas de Gortari's inauguration?

[Salinas] The government respects all social organizations, and—I must emphasize this point—within a legal framework and in accordance with our constitutional mandate and historical heritage, the separation of church and state is irreversible. We will maintain unrestricted religious freedom and public education will remain secular.

"These are the great principles upon which we base recognition of the various social organizations found in civilian society, among which is the church.

[Diaz] But was it necessary to invite them?

[Salinas] The church is one of society's real organizations, and Mexican society's various organizations were present at the inauguration.

[Diaz] Will there be progress in the relations of mutual respect between the government and the church during your term? Do you have any suggestions about such matters as voting, participation in political parties, and opinions expressed from pulpits?

[Salinas] Any progress must be based on the three principles I mentioned a moment ago: separation of church and state, respect for freedom of religion, and continuation of lay education in public schools. From this will come the respect for and recognition of this organization that exists in Mexican society. The Mexican people have deep religious feelings that must be acknowledged and respected.

[Diaz] Does this mean that priests will be able to vote at some time?

[Salinas] This means we act in line with the three principles I previously mentioned.

[Diaz] Then there will be no constitutional change regarding the church-state relationship?

[Salinas] I would say it is a relationship that must be modernized.

[Diaz] What do you mean by modernized?

[Salinas] To implement these three basic principles that stem from our strong and vigorous Mexican liberal legacy and from our desire to look to the future and be part of the great worldwide changes taking place.

[Diaz] Do you think there was excessive verbal interference by members of the church in the last electoral campaign?

[Salinas] Once again, I state that all the participants have to respect the law.

[Diaz] Did they do so?

[Salinas] All of them will have to do so.

[Diaz] Mr President, is the church a real power?

[Salinas] It is a real social organization.

[Diaz] What benefits can be obtained from greater public participation of the church and from its relationship with the government?

[Salinas] The government and the church have different spheres of responsibility and action. The government's responsibility falls in the areas of defending sovereignty, promoting democracy, establishmenting justice, and achieving development. The church has a responsibility in the spiritual area, in the sphere of values; that is where it has a task to fulfill.

[Diaz] Do you think there are intellectual groups, groups with historic ideas, that have begun to be concerned about your government's attitude and the government secretary's statements concerning the significance of the church in the country?

[Salinas] These have been just a few groups, I would say very respected isolated voices. But in general, the statements have been adequately received.

Discusses Cabinet, Personality

PA0602221789 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 26 Jan 89 pp 1-A, 10-A

["Part IV and last" of report by Regino Diaz Redondo on interview with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari at presidential office on 20 January; quotation marks as published]

[Text] "Those who think mine is an authoritarian government are people used to violating the law, having privileges, and committing crimes without receiving due punishment. Those are the groups that claim mine is an authoritarian government. I am committed to seeing that law and democracy are respected. I am not inflexible; I am a persevering person," President Salinas de Gortari, the 16th Mexican president since the Mexican Revolution, vigorously said.

President Salinas de Gortari talked about his cabinet:

"It gathers experience and talent. There is a mixture of ages in my cabinet that shows political interest, administrative efficiency, cohesion, and strength to face future challenges."

The Mexican president added:

"My cabinet is willing to serve and modernize the country."

To the question of why he appointed Manuel Bartlett as public education secretary when Bartlett was one of the presidential nominees who ran against him, President Salinas de Gortari said:

"I was looking for talent and a willingness to serve the country, regardless of a person's former political positions. I have found loyalty from and political and ideological similarities with all my cabinet members."

President Salinas de Gortari then talked about Benito Juarez, Morelos, Zapata, Madero, Carranza, Calles, and Lazaro Cardenas. He also made specific statements about Roosevelt, Lincoln, Churchill, De Gaulle, Mao, Ho Chi Minh, and Gandhi.

He ended by saying that the first 51 days of his mandate "have been the most intense in my life. There have been days that were eternal and others that have passed very quickly."

The following is the last part of the interview:

[Diaz] Mr President, how would you define the balance within your cabinet? It has been said that you have a balanced cabinet but that it is a very tough one where

differences among its members could emerge. Could you make a general analysis of your cabinet and, if possible, its structure in the different fields?

[Salinas] The cabinet is a fusion of experience and talent. The Constitution empowers the president to select the cabinet members. The selection was made after a serious and meditated process to find the best persons and those with the best training in the areas to which they would be assigned. The cabinet members have ideological cohesion and proven activism within the system, and they have met the requirement of being nationalists and having a deep love for Mexico. The members have a common denominator: their willingness to serve and participate in the country's modernization. There are five former governors in the cabinet. This fact emphasizes the great importance I am giving to the experience and responsibility obtained as the highest official at state level. The cabinet has a geographical balance so the federal government can benefit from the diversity of thoughts that exist in the country's different regions. The cabinet's secretaries are from Baja California to Yucatan and from Veracruz to Jalisco. Also, officials in different levels of the Federal government are from practically every state in the republic.

"There is a generational mixture; their ages vary, which shows our interest in politics, administrative efficiency, cohesion, and substance to face the challenges we have ahead."

[Diaz] I insist: It has been reported that some of the members in your political cabinet have very little in common. To be specific, the situation is noticeable in the triangle formed by Secretariats of Government-Federal District-Roads and Safety.

[Salinas] What do you mean by very little in common?

[Diaz] Very little in common politically.

[Salinas] They are in total agreement with the views of the president of the republic and with the instructions he gives them.

[Diaz] Why is it then that for the first time I can remember, the president of the republic has appointed one of his most important rivals, prior to the electoral campaign, to a state secretary post, as in the case of the education secretary?

[Salinas] Regardless of a person's political past, I looked for talent, commitment, and willingness to serve. I have found loyalty and political and ideological agreement in all my aides.

[Diaz] How would you describe your cabinet?

[Salinas] I would say the cabinet's common denominator is its commitment to serve and its intention to modernize the country.

[Diaz] How did you select your cabinet members? What considerations led to your decision?

[Salinas] It took me several months. The selection was based on these considerations: first, the immediate challenges I expected to face as president; second, the proposed general strategy for the country's development; third, the duties each secretariat of the Federal government must carry out, in accordance to the law; fourth, the personal characteristics required for the job.

[Diaz] Your government has been accused of making decisions in an authoritarian manner. Is that true?

[Salinas] The president of the republic and his aides observe the law and enforce the law. The people who feel that way about my government are used to violating the law, acting with impunity, and enjoying privileges. Those groups are the ones who levy that accusation.

[Diaz] You do not feel you are an authoritarian president? How would you describe yourself?

[Salinas] I am a president committed to upholding the law and developing democracy and justice.

[Diaz] Do you have any ideological commitments?

[Salinas] With the principles I already mentioned, I certainly do.

[Diaz] What about yourself? With what contemporary or historical figure do you identify the most?

[Salinas] I am a great admirer of Benito Suarez for several reasons: He overcame social obstacles. He proved that in our nation one's origin is no obstacle to reaching the highest political office a Mexican can aspire to. He did two things that won for him the place in history he holds: He fervently defended the country's sovereignty in the face of foreign intervention, and he undertook the country's internal transformation and modernization, based on the rule of law. He sacrificed his personal interests, his family, and his own life to further the interests of the nation. I think he was not only an outstanding Mexican but an outstanding citizen of the world.

"Morelos' figure is also noteworthy because of his military genius and his political and social commitments.

"I have often said I admire Emiliano Zapata because of his clear social commitment. Zapata sought to defend the people's daily life, traditions, and the way of life the older generations handed down to their descendants, with a sense of justice, equality, and coexistence based on respect. When those basic ideals were broken he fought, even endangering his own life. He is an extraordinary figure in Mexico's history whom I admire and respect. I have sought to instill pride for him in my family. In fact, I named one of my sons after him.

"I respect Madero's democratic commitment and martyrdom. I also respect Carranza's adamant opposition to foreign intervention. I admire Calles' political statesmanship and Lazaro Cardenas' historic decision to nationalize the oil industry, enforce the distribution of land, and create the institution of the Presidency in Mexico."

[Diaz] What about foreign figures, Mr President?

[Salinas] In contemporary history, I admire Roosevelt's strength, which helped him lead his country from stagnation to economic recovery. As for figures of the past century, I admire Lincoln's courage to face slavery with the strength that his conviction and even his own weapons gave him. I recognize Churchill's iron will to defend his country's independence and lead his people's efforts, sacrifices, and suffering. I also recognize De Gaulle's strength to rebuild his great nation politically. In addition, I respect and admire Mao's capacity to unite his country and Ho Chi Minh's ability to do the same, although at a different level. I also respect Gandhi's struggle for liberation.

"Although acting in very specific circumstances and solving their own specific problems, there are figures who have left us examples and values of universal meaning."

[Diaz] How would you describe yourself as a human being?

[Salinas] I enjoy family life. I appreciate informality, and I feel comfortable around people who know how to laugh—to laugh at what goes on around them or at themselves; in other words, someone who is not always so self-conscious. I like parties in which one can converse with friends and relatives. I feel at home where there is a team spirit and a sense of community, which we still found some years ago in some areas of this enormous city and which I recently found in my hometown, a small town in northern Monterrey, Nuevo Leon State. One may be outside his house there and suddenly get invited for some hot chocolate and bread or—in the north—for a delicious tamal or chilorio with one's neighbors. I like that kind of life very much. One can still get that feeling at parties or gatherings in which people converse with each other and feel good.

[Diaz] Are you as strictly disciplined as you claim to be?

[Salinas] I am an orderly person. Yes, I am an orderly person regarding my work, and I try to turn plans into realities. I believe one must be orderly to do the things one is determined to do. I am also orderly in my personal life. I like to sleep an adequate number of hours to recover from the weariness of a day's work. I also like exercising regularly. I like exercising because it is a way to release the tensions which result from occupying the position I occupy, as you may understand.

[Diaz] Do you exercise much?

[Salinas] Yes. I jog regularly, although it has a disadvantage, because one continues to think about worrisome topics. However, I also like to play tennis. I am not that good, but I can hit the ball. The advantage of tennis is that it forces you to concentrate on the ball and you forget everything else.

[Diaz] Are you relentless, Mr President?

[Salinas] No. I am persevering.

[Diaz] What virtues would you demand from your friends and the people in general?

[Salinas] Loyalty, honesty, and courage.

[Diaz] Has the daily contact with your aides been easy? Has it been normal?

[Salinas] I am very pleased with my team. Our relationship is friendly, truly very friendly and respectful at the same time.

[Diaz] How would you define these 1st 51 days of your government?

[Salinas] They are the most intense in my life. There have been days that seemed to be never-ending and there have been others that have gone by too fast.

[Diaz] Will there be new appointments in parastate agencies and advisory offices?

[Salinas] Practically all have been made already.

[Diaz] Mr President, to conclude, would you like to say something specific?

[Salinas] I am always optimistic. Regardless of how difficult the problems are, my spirits are high. It is not only a personal characteristic, it is a reflection of what I believe Mexicans are. Regardless of how bad the adversity is, I am convinced that Mexicans do not lose hope.

"The moment has come to make that hope a reality. I am convinced that by working together, with spirit, with optimism, without ignoring the problems—of course, facing them instead—we will move forward.

"I want to tell you that to work for the Mexicans from the Presidency of the republic is the highest honor I ever received in my life."

*** Profile of Oil Workers' Guzman Cabrera**
32480073 Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 638 23 Jan 89 pp 7-9

[Report by Guillermo Correa, Salvador Corro, and Mussio Cardenas]

[Text] The security is discreet in the lobby of the Presidente Chapultepec Hotel. On the 30th floor, however, a half-dozen bodyguards block one's way. Without putting down the walkie-talkie, they question the stranger. They confirm his appointment. They show him to Suite 3006. At the door another two men are standing guard, imposingly. Inside, three more stay right by the man who is inheriting the oil union empire. This is where Sebastian Guzman Cabrera does business.

Created in the image and likeness of his predecessor, Joaquin Hernandez Galicia, La Quina, who gave and took power in section 10 of Minatitlan, Veracruz whenever he wanted, the virtual national leader of the oil workers tells PROCESO: "My candidacy means hope...."

And he criticizes the former leadership of the union. He defends Fidel Velazquez. He exonerates the secretary of labor, Arsenio Farell Cubillas. He calls on the workers to correct their course and to reaffirm their support for the system, for President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and for PRI. He promises to purge the union, to make it democratic and to return autonomy to the 38 sections that it has in the country.

He feels like and is the new moral guide of the oil workers union.

His history, however, is sprinkled with acts of corruption. He is an affluent man, the possessor of one of the biggest fortunes in Veracruz. He has been accused of selling jobs. And he does, in fact, put in and remove whomever he wants in the public posts in his fiefdom, which is Minatitlan.

His fellow residents of Veracruz remember him because before La Quina retired him in June 1988, Guzman Cabrera liked to make a show of being a cacique. He would organize caravans of vehicles in which heavily armed bodyguards would ride. He would drive around the city for hours as the people of Minatitlan looked on. His home office is literally a fortress. It is compared, because of its lavishness (built in the California style), to the home of the famous Hector Garcia Hernandez, El Trampas, his colleague.

His personal and home security is on a par with the ostentatious group of bodyguards that always accompanied Joaquin Hernandez Galicia and Salvador Barrigan Camacho. His weapons range from .44 Magnums to machineguns and high-powered rifles.

His rise in the union began in 1980, thanks to a strategic move by La Quina to neutralize the then strong man in the southern zone, Sergio Martinez Mendoza. Guzman Cabrera also wanted to fill the Senate seat that belonged to an oil workers leader. It was filled, however, by a trusted associate of La Quina, Barragan Camacho, who since then has been the main obstacle in Sebastian's road to power.

Trained as a union man by Martinez Mendoza, Guzman Cabrera displaced him and took control of the southern zone. He consolidated his position as head of the state CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers] and soon became the threat that Hernandez Galicia wanted to avoid when he neutralized Martinez Mendoza. La Quina fought him without quarter after that.

He received his first warning on the morning of 9 September 1982, when Luz del Carmen Lopez, a Pemex employee, walked into the Minatitlan branch of the Banco Nacional de Mexico and was stopped by Romelia Gutierrez, a temporary worker, who handed her an envelope and said to her: "This is the money agreed upon for the job." Presumed agents immediately arrested Luz del Carmen. They transferred her to Mexico City. The questions during her interrogation were designed to implicate Sebastian Guzman Cabrera in the selling of jobs, a crime that he had been accused of since 1971, when he was already a union official. In the book "Los Sindicatos Nacionales Petroleros" [The National Oil Workers Unions], researcher Antonio Salazar Segura notes that Guzman Cabrera was accused that year of selling 464 jobs for 3,000 pesos each.

A day later, in Minatitlan, David Ramirez Cruz, an opposition leader to Sebastian, confessed to the local press that he had marked the bills in the presence of notary 11 of that city.

Two years later, on 27 June, history repeated itself. On this occasion, Sebastian's private secretary, Raul Salinas Aragon, was accused by Edvina Vargas of selling jobs. Once again David Ramirez Cruz was behind the charge. Even though he denied that La Quina had anything to do with the incident, it was learned that he was acting with the blessing of Ciudad Madero.

The maneuver worked. The objective was to weaken Guzman Cabrera, to prevent him from becoming secretary general of the oil workers union, a post that was rightly his under the agreement to rotate the job among the northern, central and southern zones.

Guzman Cabrera gave in. He submissively attended the 28th union convention when, in a show of power, La Quina forced him to nominate Jose Sosa Martinez. He asserted: "In coming to this convention, we southern leaders have put aside egoism, the petty ambition to fill seats on the National Executive Committee, so that we can stand beside our maximum leader."

As a consolation prize, La Quina named him national political coordinator. But war had been declared. Little by little his closest allies were charged with and prosecuted for selling jobs: Armando Maldonado Orantes, Miguel Cosio Limon and Andres Izquierdo Johnson. The pressure was mounting. From Ciudad Madero David Ramirez Cruz was appointed maintenance supervisor of section 10, a recently created union post from which he made sure that the contracting business that yielded so many financial benefits to La Quina was properly run.

Guzman Cabrera defended himself. His son, Victor Guzman Garcia, remains one of the contractors who has done the most work for Pemex in the country's most important oil-producing zone. In addition, he built the Minatitlan City Hall and the Convention Center Park.

He also consolidated his group. For example, Hector Luis Sarauz has made a fortune in the shadow of Sebastian and thanks to the management of union funds. Another member of the clan, Ignacio Hernandez Berrueco, has served, under Guzman Cabrera's wing, as syndic, director of public works and, today, mayor of the city. He has his own plane, as well as property in Houston; his children study in the United States, and "no one can estimate" his assets.

Guzman Cabrera has installed other staunch supporters of his as mayor in previous terms: Pablo Pavon Vinales and Perfecto Aguirre Santiago. He has done likewise with officials in city hall. Some, like Rosendo Enriquez Guzman, owe him their seats as state congressmen. And he has also exerted iron control over the regional CNOP [National Confederation of Popular Organizations], inasmuch as he even got a federal deputy seat for Alejandro de la Fuente Bauregard, the secretary general of the PRI group.

La Quina's attacks intensified in proportion to his power. Vetoed for secretary general in 1984, Guzman Cabrera was on the verge of not attending the oil workers convention in 1987. On the morning of 26 July 1986, as he was preparing to take part in the campaign of the then candidate for governor of Veracruz, Fernando Gutierrez Barrios, his plane skidded 400 meters because the landing gear did not work. This happened at the Las Chorreras Airport by the San Cristobal plant near Cosamaloapan. It was learned at the time that this was not the first accident that he had suffered. On two previous occasions defects had also shown up in the planes in which he was traveling.

For the second time he was prevented from becoming secretary general. Salvador Barragan Camacho, his heavy shadow, again took his place. And to make matters worse, his term was extended 3 more years.

Decisive Confession

The next year, in June 1988, after the arrest of Jesus Cupido, the oil union's secretary of adjustments and La Quina's personal masseur, Guzman Cabrera sensed that the final onslaught was coming. In his confession Cupido implicated him directly in the sale of jobs. The leader of section 10 was cornered and forced to beg for mercy. He met with Hernandez Galicia and Barragan Camacho. But he got nowhere. He renounced all power in the southern zone. The cacique of Ciudad Madero immediately installed Wilfrido Martinez Gomez, a staunch supporter of his, as head of section 10.

Guzman Cabrera could stand no more. On 16 June 1988 he retired. Nevertheless, Fidel Velazquez kept him as head of the local CTM until August of the same year. His last appearance during the La Quina era was on Saturday 18 June at the meeting that Hernandez Galicia organized for PRI's presidential candidate, Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

No one ever imagined that he would be resurrected, much less that it would happen so quickly and so conclusively. The same people who repudiated him during his fall acclaimed him on Wednesday 11 January, a day after the arrest and imprisonment of his old rivals. His followers organized an assembly, placed him on the pedestal of section 10 and nominated him for the coveted position of secretary general, which he won over the candidate of La Quina's people, Senator Ricardo Camero Cardiel. This time, however, he had the support of Fidel Velazquez and, of course, of the secretary of labor, Arsenio Farell Cubillas.

Guzman Cabrera denies that the labor secretary is behind his nomination. He tells PROCESO:

"It has been reported, in one way or another, that I was once passed over when it was my turn to head the union in 1985 when I was secretary of section 10. Now, when my section learned, somewhat unexpectedly, that it had gained its autonomy, it decided to bring me back to work and to the leadership of the section. This automatically opened up the possibility that I would be considered, not so much on my own behalf as on behalf of the section that I represent, to replace my colleague Barragan Camacho, who left the post of secretary general in the manner that we are all familiar with. Under those circumstances, I appeared before the Labor Secretariat to register the sectional executive committee that I represent as of this month. After examination and analysis, the secretariat found my application in keeping with the law and accorded me recognition. This is the reason for my frequent meetings with the Labor Secretariat these days.

"Moreover, both Mr Farell Cubillas and the director of Pemex (Francisco Rojas) acknowledged that I had a legitimate right, and thus my status as an active worker was

legitimized. There is no truth to the assumption that the labor secretary is behind my candidacy. The oil workers are the ones who ought to be, and this is what is happening."

Dressed in a black, pin-striped suit, white shirt and red tie, Professor Guzman Cabrera added:

"If the executive committees of the sections have joined in supporting my candidacy, it is because they sense or know that a change is needed. A change that the previous leadership of the union did not fully accomplish; at times it did just the opposite. My candidacy means hope for giving the sections back their autonomy, their right of self-determination, based on the honest, accountable management of the union's funds. And a just and democratic distribution of the advantages and benefits that the organization enjoys."

"How long have you realized that the union was not working well?"

"The union has always worked well. Hernandez Galicia's situation is not something that involves the workers or the union, because it stems from antisocial conduct. There are many good things about the social works of our colleague Hernandez Galicia. But in short we are going to correct the union's course in terms of its alliance with the government, its support for the regime of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, its activism in PRI and its unity with the CTM."

A serious Guzman Cabrera says that after La Quina's fall the bylaws are being enforced in the union. Therefore, he asserts, Jose Luis Maranto, the former interior secretary, will be secretary general until the convention is held next 2 February.

Certain of victory, he notes that the election of the new executive committee will be by direct, open ballot, which by now is a tradition among the oil workers. Of Fidel Velazquez he says:

"He is one of the figures in national life who has struggled the hardest so that democracy and autonomy can prevail in each organization of the CTM. Don Fidel is a guarantee for the oil workers union. And his first statement has been along these lines, that a democratic election should be fostered so that the rank and file on one side and the other can express its will free from pressure. Don Fidel Velazquez has expressed his way of thinking and his convictions about the illicit acts that any union leader at any level may commit. He stated: Friendship is of no use here. The rule of law comes first."

"Were you a friend of La Quina?"

"Naturally, as the representative of section 10 I had contact, relations with the man who was the maximum leader of the oil workers."

"If you become secretary general, will the union and its attorneys defend Hernandez Galicia and his colleagues?"

"Obviously not...."

Government Cancels Bridge Loan From U.S.

PA0802031689 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Report by Susana Castaneda]

[Text] Mario Luis Cortes Mencia, president of the Sales Executives of Mexico, said today that Mexico has canceled the bridge loan offered by the United States and that this shows the stability of our economy. He also said the decision not to use the bridge loan will not change the renegotiation of the foreign debt. Cortes ruled out the possibility that this measure was a reprisal by the U.S. Government in the face of the stability of the Bank of Mexico's international reserves. He pointed out that canceling the loan will not lead to a devaluation of the peso.

[Begin Cortes Menci recording] The exchange rate is based on our country's trade balance, which has not been affected so far. There have been some fluctuations in the trade balance—something which is common in any economy—but this does not necessarily mean there will be a devaluation. The country is stable now, but of course there are some difficulties in the labor and business areas. The most important thing right now is not to create any speculation, and much less to try to concentrate capital. [end recording]

Cortes Menci added that so far over $1.5 billion has returned to the country. Referring to the request to investigate the source of public officials' income, Cortes Menci said this should not lead to a dispute.

[Begin Cortes Menci recording] It is very important that this should not lead to terror or a widespread witch-hunt. [end recording]

PMS, Democratic Current Join New Party

PA0702141489 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 26 Jan 89 p 3

[Article by Gabriela Tovar and Ruben Arizmendi]

[Text] The Mexican Socialist Party (PMS) and the Democratic Current (CD) have become part of the new Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), which will also include other popular organizations.

This decision was made yesterday by the FDN [National Democratic Front], at its regular Wednesday meeting. At that meeting, PARM [Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution] leaders gave Cuauhtemoc Cardenas 1 week to decide whether to stay in this party or join the PRD.

The other parties comprising the FDN—PARM, PFCRN [Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party], and PPS [Popular Socialist Party]—insisted that Cuauhtemoc Cardenas immediately make clear in his statements whether he is speaking on behalf of the FDN or as a PRD leader.

Popular Socialist Francisco Ortiz Mendoza said that the PRI will be represented on the FDN's political commission by Porfirio Munoz Ledo and Arnoldo Martinez Verdugo and that Senator Ifigenia Martinez and Mexican Socialist Heberto Castillo will be excluded.

PARM Deputy Alberto Perez Fontecha accused Porfirio Munoz Ledo, Heberto Castillo, and Arnoldo Martinez Verdugo of "making a decision as if they were PMS leaders" when in fact they were not, since the PMS assembly has not yet been held, and thus the party rank and file has not been consulted. It was also demanded that the PRD explain its membership drive because "an attempt has been made to recruit the leaders and members of other parties by encouraging them to desert."

Perez Fontecha said that Cuauhtemoc Cardenas' recent campaign surprised pessimists because the PRD is not yet organized, its bylaws are as yet unknown, and it is still in the process of affiliation.

Meanwhile, the FDN's political commission also decided to nominate deputy, municipal, and gubernatorial candidates in Baja California. In this regard, Cardenas emphasized that the FDN did preliminary work to make this possible. He noted that he canceled his trip there to encourage his colleagues to act independently.

Cuauhtemoc Cardenas said that this organization agreed to make an all-out effort to sponsor joint candidates in the majority of the states, but added that if this is not achieved "the FDN will not have lost a great deal" because it is working not only to get joint candidacies but to achieve unity in other aspects.

He also explained that the differences within the FDN are "neither irrelevant nor insignificant, so much so that I could not tell you exactly what they are." [sentence as published]

The former FDN presidential candidate said that there is an agreement among the parties within the FDN to draft a common platform that will outline the basic commitments of its four parties and that this will be made public in the next few days.

500 New Positions for Attorney General's Office

PA0902022789 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 2 Feb 89 p 11

[Text] The Attorney General's Office announced yesterday that the president has approved the creation of 500 new positions to strengthen the department's actions, especially in the campaign against narcotics trafficking.

Javier Coello Trejo, deputy attorney for the investigation and struggle against narcotics traffic, announced yesterday in the presence of 20 circuit delegates from throughout the country that the department will train special operatives to form and follow up activities against narcotics traffic.

The official, who used to be Chiapas State government secretary, said it is very sad that the properties of narcotics traffickers, having been seized, are returned to them at the end of the legal process for lack of adequate follow-up by the Federal District Attorney's Office.

Penal Codes Amended, Penalties Stiffened

PA0802205889 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 2 Feb 89 p 10

[Text] New amendments to the Penal Code providing stiffer penalties for crimes such as murder, drug cultivation and trafficking, rape, pandering, abuse of authority, and robbery went into effect yesterday.

Some amendments, additions, and abrogations were also made to the Criminal Procedures Code, to be applied to common law in the Federal District and to federal law throughout the republic. Most notable among the amendments was the modification of penalties. For example, the sentence for murder ranges from 20 to 50 years imprisonment, and the planting, cultivation, harvesting, production, processing, transportation, sale, and trafficking of drugs carries a penalty of 10 to 28 years imprisonment, with fines of from 100 to 500 days pay calculated at the minimum wage.

Antidrug Actions, Seizures Summarized

Dec-Jan Statistics Cited

PA0802232089 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Summary] The Attorney General's Office in charge of drug investigations and operations today issued a report on the work carried out over the past 2 months. Between 1 December 1988 and 31 January 1989, authorities seized more than 64,000 kg of dried and packed marijuana and 365 kg of cocaine; arrested 1,075 people for drug trafficking; destroyed 4,269 plots of poppy plants and 1,573 plots of marijuana plants; confiscated 64,123 kg of dried marijuana plants; and seized 290 vehicles, 5 airplanes, and 230 weapons.

Arrests Reported

PA0902041989 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 2 Feb 89 pp 5-A, 9-A

[Summary] Javier Coello Trejo, assistant prosecutor for drug trafficking investigations and operations, yesterday reported that federal agents had seized approximately 1,130 kg of cocaine in several operations. The drug has an approximate value of 3 billion pesos on the drug market. Trejo also reported that authorities had arrested

Mexican citizens Domingo Guzman Reyes in Hermosillo, Sonora; Ernesto Hernandez Lechuga and Arturo Ramirez Ibarra in Guadalajara, Jalisco; Alicia Ochoa Calon, Bonifacio Mendoza Orozco, Carlos Franco, and Fernando Antunez in San Luis Potosi; and U.S. citizens Rebeca Ann Robert and Michelle Tawn Hamilton in San Luis Rio Colorado. The prisoners and the drugs have been turned over to the corresponding federal authorities.

El Salvador

FMLN Decrees 48-Hour Cease-Fire for Summit

PA0802191089 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0009 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Communique issued by the FMLN General Command in El Salvador on 8 February. San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish at 1822 GMT on 8 February broadcasts the FMLN announcement. This version has been compared to the Radio Venceremos version and found to be identical.]

[Text] The FMLN, considering that a meeting of Central American presidents is to be held in our country on 13 and 14 February, hereby agrees:

1. To request that the Central American presidents include on the agenda of the meeting the proposal submitted by the FMLN as a way to make the elections in El Salvador a contribution to peace. The implementation of our proposal would strengthen the Esquipulas agreements and would give the entire region lasting peace.

2. To decree a unilateral 48-hour cease-fire throughout the national territory on 13 and 14 February as a gesture of peace and recognition of the spirit of the Esquipulas agreements.

The FMLN takes this opportunity to hail the presence of the Central American presidents in our fatherland and to express the wish that their meeting will take our region onto paths of peace, self-determination, justice, and democracy.
[Signed] Commanders Leonel Gonzalez, Roberto Roca, Ferman Cienfuegos, Shafick Handal, and Joaquin Villalobos
El Salvador, 8 February 1989

Ungo on Government Reaction to FMLN Proposal

PA0802191889 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 7 Feb 89 p 4

[Text] Caracas (special correspondent)—FDR leader Guillermo Ungo told BARRICADA in Caracas that the Salvadoran Government's reaction to the FMLN proposal has shown [Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon] Duarte is "lacking the ability, willingness, and power to take advantage of a possibly historic situation."

Approached during President Carlos Andres Perez' inauguration ceremonies, Ungo stated that Duarte comes across in this fashion because he is using ambiguous language. Ungo added: "I think he has no desire to be at the forefront of anything. He is putting the ball into the political parties' court."

Ungo said that, in his opinion, the FMLN proposal deals with very strong issues that could help bring irrevocable peace to his country. "The proposal," he said, "does not propose elections in exchange for negotiations. We believe our proposal would be an important step forward that could generate conditions favorable for negotiation."

Dr Ungo added that although there is no reason why the proposal should be part of the agenda at the Central American presidential summit, which will be held in El Salvador, "it will undoubtedly be present in one way or another and Duarte will have to respond to the presidents."

In Caracas, Ungo met with Guatemalan President Cerezo and Costa Rican President Arias. He said: "I informed them of the proposal so they would not be surprised."

Ungo admitted that even though the FMLN has laid its cards on Duarte's table, it has by no means said it will stop the war. "Obviously, the war continues," he said.

Referring to the FDR's political participation in El Salvador, he commented that "we are fighting against hell or high water. I think the reports from abroad that ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] will win the elections are not quite correct. ARENA will not manage to win on the first round."

Ungo believes there will be a second round of elections in El Salvador. This will not only complicate things but also makes the final results less predictable.

Ungo sent greetings to the Nicaraguan people, "because we are fighting for peace, just as you are."

When Ungo was questioned about rumors that the U.S.-backed contras have submitted a proposal to Duarte so he can present it at the presidential summit, he said: "I do not think he is the right person to make such a presentation."

Vides Casanova Announces Increased U.S. Aid

PA0802140589 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] San Salvador—The U.S. Administration has decided to increase military aid to El Salvador by more than $12 million. Military aid to El Salvador will total $97.5 million, according to Defense Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova.

The announcement of the increase in military aid was given following the visit 3 days ago of U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, during which he reiterated his support for the Salvadoran Government and Army. U.S. aid had been estimated at $85 million—$5 million more than in 1988. According to Vides Casanova, the increase was decided by General Fred Woerner, head of the U.S. Southern Command.

The decision of the new U.S. Administration to continue, unchanged, the foreign political and human rights policies [of the Reagan administration] strengthens the High Command's position, Gen Vides Casanova said when releasing the news. We are guaranteed support for this year, he added. We are aware that we have the ability and the resources to continue the war, and this, together with respect for human rights, are key elements in winning the war, the military leader asserted.

Bombs Damage Government Offices, Vehicles

PA0802133789 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Two vehicles were destroyed and an unidentified office of the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry was heavily damaged following the explosion of two bombs yesterday afternoon.

The National Fire Department reported that following the explosions at 1830, a fire erupted that partially destroyed an unidentified office in the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry building. It was reported that two vehicles in the area where the bombs were detonated were destroyed and several houses in the area were damaged. The damaged offices are located at 123 A Avenue in the San Jose neighborhood in the western section of San Salvador.

Fortunately, there were no casualties reported as a result of this incident, for which the FMLN guerrillas are being held responsible.

Comparison of Duarte Addresses Nation on FMLN

PA0802180589

San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish on 4 February publishes on page 11 a "Message to the Nation" by Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte on the FMLN's peace proposal. The date and place of the speech are not given.

The DIARIO LATINO version of the speech has been compared to the San Salvador Canal Seis Television version published in the 6 February Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 12, column one, and found to be identical, with the following exceptions:

page 12, column one, penultimate paragraph, first sentence in DIARIO LATINO reads...Our country has been suffering an armed conflict since 1979. I have reiterated the causes of this armed conflict many times. The causes stem from a very large population having very scarce economic resources, a high concentration...(supplying missing text)

page 13, column one, penultimate paragraph, only sentence in DIARIO LATINO reads...the constitutional system. (omitting final phrase of sentence)

Guatemala

Vice Presidents To Meet 10-11 Feb in Guatemala

PA0702150889 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0400 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] It was reported on 6 February that Central American vice presidents will meet in Guatemala City on 10 and 11 February, 2 days prior to the Central American presidential summit.

Interest in Esquipulas II and the Central American presidential summit scheduled for 13 and 14 February arose again after Carlos Andres Perez assumed office as the new Venezuelan president. This is what we at Radio Corporacion learned during our monitoring of international stations.

The announcement was officially made in Guatemala City by acting President Roberto Carpio Nicolle. The Salvadoran, Honduran, Costa Rican, Nicaraguan, and Guatemalan vice presidents will discuss the region's economic problems and coordinate OAS, UN, and EEC economic aid programs. Carpio Nicolle also explained to local and foreign reporters the relationship between the Central American presidents meeting on 13 and 14 February and the reports and proposals by the (?Hasseth) Commission for Peace, Democracy, and Development in Central America.

The commission, which has no formal relationship with the U.S. Government, is headed by former North Carolina Governor (?Warren Shulter), who made statements regarding the implementation of a Central American peace plan through a program for peaceful and democratic development.

The commission, which met in Stockholm last year and later in Washington, will deliver its final report and recommendations to the area vice presidents in Guatemala City on 11 February.

Area political and economic circles are interested in the report and recommendations of the commission formed by Latin American, European, and U.S. development officials.

During a news conference, Carpio Nicolle announced the vice presidents' joint meeting with the commission and said the following:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Do you believe that all of the efforts for economic aid will be useful?

[Carpio Nicolle] [Words indistinct]

[Reporter] Can you give us the specifics of this report?

[Carpio Nicolle] It includes Central America in general. [Words indistinct] as the (?Hasseth) Commission already did to seek overall support for Central America. [end recording]

Honduras

Azcona News Conference on Caracas Trip, Meetings

PA0702212789 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1735 GMT 6 Feb 89

[News conference by President Jose Azcona with reporters at the Government Palace in Tegucigalpa; date not given—recorded; monitored in progress]

[Text] [Azcona] ... and some news about the presidential summit to be held in El Salvador 13-14 February. I am ready to answer any questions you may want to ask regarding my meetings in Caracas, our position regarding the Central American situation, any event that may have happened in Honduras during my absence, or about our country's immediate future. Thank you.

[Reporter] Mr President, I want to ask something regarding the foreign debt. I believe you met with several Latin American presidents and with U.S. Vice President [2-second break in reception].... [Words indistinct] consensus of the Third World countries and Latin America to face the foreign debt problem.

[Azcona] Because of the presence of so many Latin American presidents in Caracas, a SELA meeting was held. Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja spoke at that meeting; he was selected because he was the first president to confirm his attendance at President Perez' inauguration. Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez also spoke at that meeting. They discussed the Latin American countries' economic situation and the foreign debt problem. International creditors were strongly criticized, and the need to establish new norms for renegotiating the foreign debt was discussed.

From the moment I was inaugurated as Honduran president on 25 January 1986, I clearly said we would support all countries that demanded a revision of the norms and regulations of international credit organizations, but I also clearly stated the debt is a question of honor. It is not a matter of not paying the foreign debt, but of lightening the burden by renegotiating the debt by giving longer terms of payment and by even revising some interest rates.

[Moderator] [Name indistinct] of Dica television and RCN radio.

[Reporter] Mr President, I would like to ask you about your meeting with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. I would like to know the topics you discussed and specifically, what did he promise and what did you promise regarding the Central American peace plan?

[Azcona] We met with President Ortega. The Honduran foreign minister, the Honduran Armed Forces commander in chief, and Nationalist Deputies Mario Rivera Lopez and Gilberto Goldstein also attended that meeting.

We talked, and he presented a proposal regarding the presence of counterrevolutionaries in Honduras. We told him we would study the proposal and then give him an answer. Subsequently, we met on the afternoon of 3 February. The meeting was called by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, and myself—in addition to the foreign ministers of the four countries, President Perez, who presided over the meeting, and his foreign minister—were present at the meeting.

We talked about the Central American issue. I want to add that during Perez' inaugural speech, he stressed the reason why he thinks the Central American problem cannot be solved while other problems considered more critical are being solved, such as the problems in Afghanistan, Angola, Namibia, and others. He said it is impossible not to reach an understanding in Central America.

At the meeting with President Perez, we talked about the need for specific steps in the implementation of Esquipulas II. I believe Esquipulas II is being strengthened, and we hope to take more specific positions to the San Salvador meeting regarding the democratization process in some countries.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Azcona] The main point of that proposal regarding Honduras is that Nicaragua is asking the contras to lay down their weapons and to give those weapons either to Honduras or the OAS. That, however, cannot be attained bilaterally by Honduras and Nicaragua, because we are [words indistinct] and we are not going to fight against armed groups at the expense of Honduran lives.

We want do not want disarmament to be the result of such actions, but the result of internal democratization in Nicaragua. In that way, the contra problem will be much more easily solved. That is more or less our position as we presented it to President Ortega before the other Central American presidents.

[Moderator] Gustavo Rubi.

[Rubi] International press agency reports stated that President Ortega met with Cuban President Fidel Castro in Caracas. Did you meet with President Castro to discuss the Central American problems and [did you meet] with high-ranking U.S. officials?

[Azcona] No, I did not meet with President Castro. President Perez told us that Costa Rican President Arias and other presidents had met with President Castro. President Perez told us what they discussed at their

meetings with Castro during our meeting on Friday. I did not attend the meeting with President Castro; I only greeted President Fidel Castro.

[Moderator] Rafael Castellanos.

[Castellanos] Mr President, I would like to know what you think about the end of General Alfredo Stroessner's dictatorship in Paraguay, Also, can you tell us what, if anything, you obtained for Honduras during your trip to Caracas, so the Honduran people are informed?

[Azcona] Regarding Stroessner's fall, I believe no one has the right to lead a country for 35 years. During such a long presidential term, a leader is bound to commit abuses and arbitrary acts and he is bound to repress his people to a certain extent, depending on the situation. As a democratic president, I believe Stroessner's fall will benefit Latin American democracy in general and Paraguay in particular. We must wait and see how the situation develops there, whether the elections to be held in 90 days are really held, whether those elections are really free and honest, and whether the opposition is given the opportunity to participate. We must wait and see whether all the things necessary for a true democracy begin to appear in Paraguay. In the meantime, we have recognized Rodriguez' government so we must now wait for the situation there to develop. We hope things will develop in the most beneficial way for Paraguay.

Regarding achievements for Honduras, you must be aware that at these meetings, we do not talk specifically about each country's problems. The opportunity I had to greet and converse with other countries' presidents, especially with presidents of countries that are helping us like Venezuela, is beneficial for Honduran foreign relations and for Honduras in general. It was worth attending the gathering, in which so many other presidents took part. We decorated outgoing President Jaime Lusinchi, who has proven his friendship to Honduras, and we also established links with the new Venezuelan president, Carlos Andres Perez, who is already becoming an indisputable Latin American leader.

[Moderator] Faustino Ordonez Baca from LA PRENSA.

[Ordonez] Mr President, is it confirmed that Honduras does not accept the proposal presented by Daniel Ortega?

[Azcona] It is not a case of not accepting the proposal; in Esquipulas we agreed on a package of measures to resolve the Central American problem. The other presidents did not see focusing on the contra problem as the only way to reach a solution to the Central American problem. President Ortega also confirmed this in his news conference when he said he would not hold talks with the contras because the contras were a corpse. In other words, he thinks the problem is over. Ortega does not think it is important and says he is not going to negotiate with them because they are a corpse. So, the contras are no longer a priority in solving Nicaragua's internal problems.

[Moderator] Alister Doyle of REUTER will ask a question.

[Doyle] Mr President, you have said the contras have to leave the country during the first few months of 1989. How much time will you allow them and why are the guerrillas allowed to have a radio station on the Atlantic coast [Caribe] when this would seem to violate the Esquipulas accords?

[Azcona] I said at the end of 1988 that the contra problem had to be solved within the first few months of 1989. I still hold this view, but the problem is not only Honduras'. Nicaragua is willing to grant amnesty to the contras and even grant them land and technical assistance for agricultural production. This is a contribution toward solving the problem. I have no information on the radio station being in Honduran territory.

[Moderator] Journalist Gustavo Palencia of EL TIEMPO newspaper.

[Palencia] Mr President, several acts of violence have taken place in January: the assassination of a high-ranking contra leader known as Aureliano; the assassination of Juan Ramon Matta Ballesteros' lawyer; and the assassination of the former head of the Armed Forces Humberto Regalado ...[changes thought] excuse me, Gustavo Alvarez. You announced before you departed for Venezuela that you were going to call a national dialoque. When are you going to call this national dialoque, Mr President?

[Azcona] I have mentioned two aspects of the dialogue: a concerted effort by various sections of society, which we have already called for, and a meeting to deal with violence. We have already called for a meeting which could be described as a step toward that concerted effort, with the participation of the economic cabinet and representatives from labor unions and private enterprise.

This meeting, scheduled for 9 February, will deal with the following topics: inflation, price controls wherever possible on certain basic goods,linking the minimum wage to production levels—after gaining the trade unions' permission through proper legal procedures, an agreement from businessmen not to lay off workers, reducing unemployment, and other issues. We are going to hold a preliminary meeting, followed by a session with the Supreme Court, Congress, and others, to talk about maintaining peace in the area.

This is not the first time we have called for a national dialoque. When I took office we had three long sessions, followed by meetings with all groups: teachers, businessmen, workers, and peasants. We have talked with everyone—more groups than any other administration has

talked with. It is not easy, for example, to reach agreement on a concerted effort by elements of our society. These are some of the points we are raising now. We have to come to agreement, and the minimum wage commission is already working to establish a minimum wage that is not going to bankrupt businesses on the one hand, or deprive workers of a fair wage, on the other. In other words, we must find a balance between these two production sectors—private enterprise and the workers.

We will try very hard to ensure tranquillity in the next year of our administration, and the greatest degree of consensus among Hondurans. Violent acts are not exclusive to Honduras. We regret the loss of all human life—of Hondurans or anyone else—but especially when Hondurans are involved. Therefore, I ask the Supreme Court, the Reconciliation Commission, the National Congress, and political parties to exchange ideas on reducing violence in our country.

[Reporter] Good afternoon, Mr President. Any efforts made by the Latin American countries to solve the serious problems they encounter as a whole must deal with the situation stemming from the foreign debt, a situation that profoundly affects these countries. Taking this into consideration, are we any closer to a solution now that the leaders of Latin America have declared that, unless there is joint negotiation on the matter, these financial organizations will continue to choke us, and to prevent any solution to the problems [words indistinct] of the Latin American people?

[Azcona] As I told you before, I have always been of the opinion that there must be solidarity in negotiating with international organizations. What has happened so far is that the large countries have reached agreements with these organizations, and then the small countries have had to do the same; otherwise, we would have been faced with an even more difficult situation, if that were at all possible. Therefore, if there is a multinational agreement to revise the rules of the international lending organizations, then Honduras would be willing to sign any document to that effect.

[Antunez] Danilo Antunez of LA TRIBUNA. I would like to ask you two questions. The first is: Are you aware of an item in today's newspapers that says that the interior minister of the ousted Paraguayan Government has sought asylum in the Honduran Consulate in Asuncion? The other question has to do with a domestic issue. One of the Liberal Party's presidential hopefuls, Hector (?Bulnes), has said that your administration has covered a period when investments have faced the greatest obstacles.

[Azcona] Regarding the first question, this is a common, everyday case where a politician seeks political asylum in an embassy. I do not think... [Azcona changes thought] I think the news report is mistaken. We have diplomatic relations with Paraguay, and although we do not have a resident ambassador in that country—we have someone there acting as our ambassador—in effect, we have a Honduran legation in Asuncion, Paraguay. That is... [Azcona changes thought] perhaps the Honduran Embassy was the closest to where he was, and that is why he sought asylum there. The matter is of little importance.

Regarding the statements made by (?Bulnes), I think he is completely mistaken. At these events, where new directors are sworn in to preside over a businessmen's organization, the easiest thing to do is to pick on the government. That seems to have become a habit around here. Everyone seems to think that will make someone popular. I do not think our friend (?Bulnes) is a political expert, and I believe he is making a mistake.

This government has supported private enterprise. There have been settlements with the banana companies, subsidies have been granted to rehabilitate the beef exporting companies, subsidies have been granted to the cotton growers, there is a [word indistinct] that facilitates exports, and funds were allotted for those exports that did not require export permits. Before, when you wanted to export as little as $1,000 in merchandise, you had to go to a bank to get an export permit. Laws have been issued to change this. I believe this government has made tremendous efforts to facilitate the development of private enterprise.

Perhaps sometimes things do not work out as some people want, and then the easiest thing to do is to pick on the government. There are some bureaucratic obstacles, but these are laws that have not been made by the executive branch. These were made by the legislative branch during this legislative term and in previous ones. New laws are created all the time, and sometimes these laws create greater problems and greater bureaucratic obstacles. But to accuse the government of not being a government that has provided incentives for private enterprise is absolutely uncalled for.

[Reporter] Mr President, the EEC warned the Central American countries that if they did not try to reactivate Esquipulas II, the EEC's program for aid to Central America could fail. The EEC plans to give approximately $4 billion to Central America. What does your government expect from the summit in San Salvador and from the [words indistinct] that will be held [words indistinct] this month?

[Azcona] The [word indistinct] commission is the one that set the figure of $4 billion, but the EEC has not said that it agrees with that figure. I hope it does agree.

Esquipulas II was agreed upon by all Central American countries and we are obligated to promote that agreement. That was the concern expressed in Caracas. We do not want the agreement to fail. I hope there will not be any setbacks at the San Salvador summit. I hope we make progress at that summit. That is what really matters. Things are never solved as quickly as one would hope.

As for the meeting of the Contadora and Support Groups, the Central American foreign ministers, and the EEC, I expect them to seriously discuss the Central American situation and our need for aid, and I hope the officials and foreign ministers leave with a willingness to help our countries.

We are facing difficult times. Nicaragua poses a difficult problem. Nicaragua is receiving aid from the Soviet Union. Nicaragua obviously will need aid from other countries to promote its democratization. We must understand Nicaragua's situation; we are offering our understanding.

[Reporter] Jose Miguel Soriano from the...[passage indistinct] for the renegotiation of the debt. [Words indistinct] another one, because Central America lacks a strong feeling of solidarity [words indistinct]. In other words, as Latin Americans we [words indistinct], but we understand that the other countries, those which [words indistinct] such as Argentina, Brazil, and Venezuela, are the ones that will tell us [words indistinct]. And while those countries try to find a way to solve the situation, [words indistinct] could be much more [words indistinct] the foreign debt. [Passage indistinct]

[Azcona] The Central American countries are not strong enough to exert pressure on creditors, or to try to make them change certain procedures, or to make the creditors implement a general renegotiation of the debt. Larger countries have negotiated directly with the creditors, but they can do so because their debts are larger. We, on the other hand, have achieved nothing in this regard. It must be clearly understood that debt payment has nothing to do with who contracted the debt or with whether the debt negotiations were well managed or not. Each country must be responsible for its own debt. We must renegotiate our debt. We must obtain easy terms of payment so that debtors can meet their obligations.

[Reporter] I am Gustavo Rubi of Radio America. Some Honduran citizens have said that you called for a national dialogue but that the dialogue consisted of simply a few handshakes and embraces and that the dialogue was insincere. It has also been said that the dialogue could turn into a [word indistinct]. In addition, some groups say the reconciliation commission delivered a document to you which includes political openings and true reconciliation among Hondurans and that you have viewed it with contempt.

[Azcona] No, I have not viewed it with contempt. The problem is that the document contains the concerns of all groups. Some concerns in fact contradict each other. In other words, it is not easy to consider the demands of all groups and to satisfy them all. I did not view that document with contempt. On the contrary, we have been supporting and will continue to support the reconciliation commission. We are grateful for all its efforts. The reconciliation commission gathers all the viewpoints of peasant organizations, of FENAGH [National Federation of Farmers and Cattlemen of Honduras], of the private sector, and of the workers. Those viewpoints are not always compatible, and the government cannot fulfill all the demands presented by the commission or by all the various sectors when those demands cannot be included in the government's plans.

The government's obligation is to hear those demands and to try to fulfill as many as possible. We have not expressed contempt for that document. No government can fulfill all demands presented to it by various sectors. I wish FENAGH, the peasants, and the labor unions could agree on their demands. We are now discussing the minimum wage. We hope to reach an agreement, and we will gladly issue an agreement on the minimum wage if it is agreed upon by the country's two productive sectors.

[Moderator] German Reyes, ACAN-EFE, will ask the last question to conclude this news conference.

[Reyes] Mr President, I will take advantage of the opportunity to ask two questions. Last week it was learned in Tegucigalpa that another claim will be filed against the Honduran Government at the International Court of Justice if no report is issued on the murders of Miguel Angel Pavon and Moises Landaverde [not further identified] by March 1989. That is my first question. Second, will you be in San Pedro Sula for the inauguration of the foreign ministers meeting? There are certain doubts about your participation since you are scheduled to attend Hirohito's funeral service late in February.

[Azcona] I would like to tell you that crimes occur in all countries in the world and many of these crimes are unsolved. It is untrue that the authorities do not want to solve the murder cases of Messrs Pavon and Landaverde. I do not believe that the government should be condemned for those crimes. Thousands of murder cases are still unsolved in many countries of the world, and I do not think that should elicit international condemnation. Otherwise all countries in the world should be condemned.

During a news conference in San Jose, Costa Rica, I was asked about the ruling issued against the Honduran Government by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. I would like to point out to you that Honduras is one of the seven countries which has openly accepted the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights' jurisdiction. However, the court's jurisdiction has yet to be openly accepted by Nicaragua, Cuba, Paraguay, Chile, or other countries where there is a greater violation of human rights.

Honduras has accepted the court's jurisdiction in good faith, without reservations. This proves that Honduras is honest in dealing with international affairs. Furthermore, certain judges of the Inter-American Commission

on Human Rights should not...[changes thought] should resign because the countries they represent do not accept the court's jurisdiction. I think that is somewhat strange, to say the least.

Honduras will request that all Latin American countries accept the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights' jurisdiction or else the government will consider adopting certain reservations in its stance toward the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. I am not talking about pending cases because we will respect the agreements we have signed.

[Moderator] Mr President, Faustino...

[Reyes, interrupting] What about the trip to Tokyo?

[Azcona] Ah, yes. We will fly nonstop from Tokyo to Honduras via Los Angeles and Guatemala City to be here for the foreign ministers meeting. I will be pleased to greet the foreign ministers in San Pedro Sula.

[Moderator] Mr President, Faustino Ordonez Baca, LA PRENSA, wants to know about your meeting with the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] president and other top-level representatives of that international banking organization.

[Azcona] I would have liked for Liberal Party and National Party candidates to be in Caracas because one of them will be the next Honduran president. They would thus have been able to hear IDB President Enrique Iglesias explain what our chances are of building the international airport at Laguna del Pedregal.

I think we have a unique opportunity to satisfy this need of our nation's capital. We all know—one of today's newspapers carries the story—of the government's interest in carrying out this construction project. Everyone is also very aware of the opposition generated by the construction of this project. The views of pilots' groups, legislative deputies, and various sectors of society, and even technical opinions, were expressed. At the present time, we have the favorable opinion of the Engineers' Association, whose representatives came to see me a few days ago, and of the Francisco Morazan Chamber of Commerce and Industries. Many sectors have voiced their opinion regarding the advantages and benefits that would result if that airport were to be built.

We are solving another problem: the supply of drinking water to the capital city of Tegucigalpa, which is more important than the construction of the airport. As you know, the dam at Concepcion is under construction. Agreements have been signed with the French Government for laying water main lines and with the IDB for distribution lines. Agreements have also been signed with the Italian Government for construction of the dam at Concepcion, and the plant at (?Saltamin).

After resolving that problem, I would say the capital's most pressing problem would be the airport construction. There can be no development, and Tegucigalpa will not be considered a real capital, until it has an airport that does not pose the high risks of Toncontin airport. The IDB will make $30 million available to Honduras out of the $500 million that Spain has provided the IDB because of the 5th centennial [of Columbus discovering America], and there is the possibility of entering into a bilateral agreement with Spain for an additional $30 million. Regarding Venezuelan [words indistinct], part of that fund can also be used. Part of the money can be used, especially for the acquisition of Venezuelan products that will be needed in building the airport. In other words, there has never been a greater likelihood for the building of this airport. It has been shown that, from a technical standpoint, Laguna del Pedregal is the best site; at least, that is what the Honduran Engineers' Association determined, and so have other companies and firms that were consulted. Now all that remains is for this project to be pushed forward so that in the next 4 or 5 years the international airport at Laguna del Pedregal will become a reality.

Foreign Minister To Meet UN Secretary General

PA0802200689 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1120 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Interview with Foreign Affairs Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras by Carlos Matute Rivera "yesterday"; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Lopez Contreras] During an informal foreign ministers meeting held in Caracas, we decided to meet in New York. Not all ministers, however, could confirm their attendance, so it was agreed that their representatives could attend the meeting. I have sent one representative there. He left this morning. I myself will be traveling in 1 hour.

[Matute] Are you referring to [words indistinct]?

[Lopez Contreras] That is correct. I will be traveling in 1 hour, and tomorrow I will attend this meeting. We will meet with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar.

[Matute] Does the agenda for the Central American presidents' summit necessarily have to be prepared during this meeting in New York?

[Lopez Contreras] There will be a second meeting in New York on Thursday. Later there will also be a meeting in San Salvador on 12 February. By the time the Central American presidents arrive in San Salvador, we will have held two Central American foreign ministers meetings.

[Matute] How do you explain the fact that the UN secretary general is now involved in the Central American problem? He had not attended these executive meetings before. How should we interpret his presence?

[Lopez Contreras] While in Mexico on 30 November, we asked the UN secretary general to create a mechanism for inspection and verification, taking various existing proposals into account, including the Honduran proposal presented at the United Nations last year.

[Matute] Is Dr Carlos Roberto Reina [president of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights] going to The Hague again?

[Lopez Contreras] He is traveling to present a counterproposal and to propose a new ad hoc judge. Ad hoc judge [name indistinct], who had been proposed by Honduras, died last Friday from an illness.

[Matute] Who will be appointed to the position, then? (Prava)?

[Lopez Contreras] Yes. (Prava) will assume the position in early February. Dr (Carias), who had served as acting Honduran judge, remains as [word indistinct], but Reina will now officially assume the position.

[Matute] Is it because of your many commitments that you will not be traveling to The Hague? We know you are planning to go to Japan, San Pedro Sula, and San Salvador.

[Lopez Contreras] There is about a 24-hour difference between one end of the world and the other. This is why I have had to delegate some responsibilities. Dr Reina is highly qualified. He will be serving as Honduran representative for the second time.

[Matute] A foreign ministers meeting has also been planned in San Salvador. What will you do there?

[Lopez] We will basically plan the presidents' summit, which will take place the following day. That is generally what we will do.

Nicaraguan Ministry Denies Assassination Charges

PA0802153789 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1220 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has denied the charges that the Honduran Government has leveled against the Nicaraguan Embassy in Tegucigalpa regarding the 7 January assassination in Tegucigalpa of Manuel Rugama, known as Commander Aureliano, the second in command of the counterrevolutionaries in Honduras.

Honduran National Police on Monday presented to the press Honduran Juan Bautista Nunez Amador and Nicaraguan Luis Fernando Ordonez Reyes, who told reporters that Commander Aureliano was assassinated on orders from Jose de Jesus Pena, the Nicaraguan Embassy chief of security.

Mercedes Borge, press director at the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, said there is no Jose de Jesus Pena employed at the Nicaraguan Embassy in Tegucigalpa and that Aureliano's assassination was perpetrated by three individuals and not two, as the Honduran police claim. Borge said that while Nicaragua makes serious and formal proposals to advance peace efforts, it is worrisome that Honduran military personnel are creating situations that could unleash conflicts between the two countries. There have already been two attacks on the Nicaraguan Embassy in Tegucigalpa, Borge said. She added that the Honduran police report conflicts with the autopsy report, because in his statement, Nunez Amador referred to only a .38-caliber revolver and a .45-caliber pistol, which were not found on Rugama's body or in his vehicle.

Assassin Suspects Say 'Tortured' To Confess

PA0802155089 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] The three men accused of killing contra leader Manuel Rugama, alias "Commander Aureliano," who appeared in court on 7 February, denied everything they said during a news conference held by the Armed Forces on 6 February. The accused said they testified that way because they had been tortured by the Honduran police.

Nicaraguan Luis Ordonez Reyes promised to reveal to newspapers today the names of those people who would stand to benefit by accusing them of the crime.

On 7 February, Rigoberto Matute, former National Investigations Department, DNI, official; Honduran Juan Bautista Nunez; and Ordonez were turned over to the Comayaguela justice of the peace. The police have accused them of killing Rugama. This terrorist action occurred on 7 January under an underpass in Comayaguela's Carrizal neighborhood. Matute, who shed tears when asked about the action, said that he was innocent.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Tell me, Matute, how can you explain your involvement in the murder of Commander Aureliano?
[Matute] It was the police!
[Reporter] I want you to tell the truth, Matute, freely and wihout duress. You are making things worse by crying. Tell us the truth.
[Matute] I am innocent of all that has been reported.
[Reporter] But why have you been implicated?
[Matute] The only person who knows why is the young man here beside me. His name is Juan Bautista.
[Reporter] Why are you crying? Is it for remorse?
[Matute] No, it is because I am innocent.
[Reporter] Why do you say you are innocent? How is it that this man got you involved in the accusation?
[Matute] I have just asked him why he mentioned my name. He gave my name and that of Ramon Cano Artega, who works for the General Staff. Theirs were the first names that came to his mind. [passage indistinct]
[Reporter] What is your relationship to him?

[Matute] None at all. I had not seen him for a long time. He used to work as a bank guard. He saw me once when I cashed several checks for my employer. I did not see him for about 8 years. I saw him again about 1 year ago. So mine was the first name that came to his mind.
[Reporter] What's his name again?
[Matute] Juan Bautista Nunez.
[Reporter] Does he live in the Galiona or the Buenos Aires neighborhood?
[Matute] No, he lives in the southern part of the country. He is not from here. I live in El Bosque myself.
[Reporter] When were you detained?
[Matute] On 31 January.
[Reporter] Where?
[Matute] At my place of employment.
[Reporter] Who detained you?
[Matute] DNI members, my former colleagues.
[Reporter] What reason did they give for detaining you?
[Matute] I asked them in the vehicle, but they did not tell me. I told them to ask me whatever they wanted to, but I had to confess that I had done it because of the blows they gave me.
[Reporter] People are apparently still tortured at DNI. According to the police, you were fired.
[Matute] No, I resigned because I wanted to avoid trouble. A cousin of mine was killed by the police.
[Reporter] What is your cousin's name?
[Matute] Lionel. My relatives advised me to resign after he was killed.
[Reporter] Who killed Lionel?
[Matute] I do not know. It happened while he was on assignment.
[Reporter] Oh, it was during an assignment. And he was a DNI agent. And who killed Coronita [not further identified]?
[Matute] I do not know. I was not there on that day.
[Reporter] Oh, you had already resigned?
[Matute] I resigned 1 and ½ years ago.
[Reporter] All right. Who did you say mentioned your name?
[Matute] Bautista.
[Reporter] Bautista, why did you get Matute involved in the murder of Rugama?
[Bautista] I did it because I was forced to.
[Reporter] We are interested in learning whether you participated in the murder of Commander Aureliano, as the police have alleged. You are free to answer our questions or to remain silent. We cannot force you to answer. Did you participate in the crime?
[Bautista] No, I did not.
[Reporter] Why then do the police say otherwise? At the news conference you said that you had participated in the crime.
[Bautista] I did not want to contradict myself.
[Reporter] Did the police pressure you into saying that you were involved?
[Bautista] Yes.
[Reporter] Who in the 7th Command pressured you?
[Bautista] No, it happened in Olancho.
[Reporter] Was it there that you were detained?
[Bautista] I arrived there on 13 January.
[Reporter] What were you doing there?
[Bautista] A cousin of mine had agreed to sell me some land, but the deal had not gone through yet. Then I was arrested.
[Reporter] What is your name?
[Bautista] Juan Bautista Nunez.
[Reporter] How old are you?
[Bautista] I am 36.
[Reporter] Where were you born?
[Bautista] In Choluteca.
[Reporter] Where do you live?
[Bautista] In Cerro Grande.
[Reporter] When were you detained?
[Bautista] On 13 January.
[Reporter] Where?
[Bautista] In (?Cahua).
[Reporter] Who did you say captured you?
[Bautista] The police.
[Reporter] From Olancho or Tegucigalpa?
[Bautista] I do not know.
[Reporter] On what grounds did they detain you?
[Bautista] I suppose they were acting on instructions from higher up. [end recording]

In addition, Ordonez, the Nicaraguan who allegedly hired the [former] DNI agent to kill Commander Aureliano, said that somebody wants the three men to take responsibility for the crime. He added that everything will be disclosed today when he provides the media with a full account.

Armed Forces Display Nicaraguan Helicopter

PA0802183889 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Report by Adolfo Hernandez]

[Text] Exactly 60 days ago today, this Soviet-made Mi-25 helicopter owned by the FSLN—the Nicaraguan Sandinist government—entered Honduran airspace. Today, 60 days later, the national and international press have gained access to information on this aircraft believed to be one of the world's most effective offensive weapons. This aircraft is possibly the world's most advanced military combat helicopter, also known as a flying tank.

The invitation [to the national and international press corps] came through the Honduran Armed Forces Public Relations Office under express orders from Commander in Chief General Humberto Regalado Hernandez. We attended the meeting, and Colonel Lufty Anuar Azzad Matute immediately explained why the national press corps had not been invited before. A technical explanation of the aircraft was also provided. Here is the main part of what was said:

[Begin Azzad recording] The Mi-25 is the Soviet version of this helicopter. It was built around 1974. It was first used in the GDR. The main technical aspects of this helicopter are as follows: It has a main rotor with five

metal blades. Each blade is divided into segments, giving it versatility in case it is struck by shells. Each segment can be removed and replaced by individual parts to ensure continuous operation in the field. It has a three-blade tail rotor. It has two Isotov TV3-117 turbines of 2,500 horsepower each, giving a total horsepower of 5,000. For comparison purposes, the (?AT-500) you have on your right has a 420 horsepower turbine, and the (?642) on your left has two turbines totaling 1,800 horsepower.

It [the Mi-25] has a maximum speed of 340 km per hour and a normal cruising speed of 295 km per hour. With a full load of fuel, it can fly (?130) minutes. In its cargo section it can carry eight fully equipped soldiers or 12 lightly equipped soldiers. In this configuration, it has an auxiliary tank with a capacity of 241 gallons, allowing it to fly 1 additional hour. It may carry two auxiliary tanks for 4 and ½ hours of flying. This compartment can also carry complete armaments with which to reload once it has expended its firepower. It has retractable landing gear allowing the helicopter to land on soft ground. [end recording]

The approximate cost of this aircraft is over $20 million. A step-by-step technical explanation would take too long to give on television. We can say that it has artillery that makes it perhaps the most destructive weapon invented by man. The most important part was summarized by Col Azzad Matute. We asked him if the helicopter could be used for anything else other than destruction. This is what he said:

[Begin Azzad recording] This is one of this aircraft's characteristics. It is primarily a destructive weapon. Comparing this to what our Air Force has, our Air Force aircraft have many times alleviated our peoples' suffering, helped in development, and brought a little happiness to isolated groups in various parts of our country. Our planes have a dual purpose. They can help national development and they can also transport troops if necessary. In the case of this Nicaraguan machine of Soviet origin, you can see that it cannot help create anything—only destroy. [end recording]

Nicaragua

Ortega on Honduras' Contra Refugees, Peace Plan

PA0802192689 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Report on statements by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra to Mexico City Imevision Television; date and place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said that Honduras must not be ignored in the search for a solution to the contra problem. This is how he defined the terms of the Azcona proposal:

[Ortega] "What it contains is a plan for Central Americans to find a solution to the contra problem within the context of Esquipulas II, without abandoning the contras. That is where we agree with what has been said [words indistinct]. It would be unwise to abandon the contras. Leaving the contras in Honduras is tantamount to abandoning them, and then [words indistinct] how to implement a plan to send the contras back to Nicaragua, whether under an amnesty or not. [Words indistinct] that they have assurances of employment, that a program be prepared to support [words indistinct] the contras to Nicaragua. At this time, [words indistinct] providing a way out for the contras, and this would continue to develop if those contras who do not wish to return to Nicaragua were to go to a third country. We think that the U.S. Government should contribute funds for this project."

The contra army continues to disband. Many of them are leaving for Honduras and Miami.

[Ortega] "Some contra forces remain infiltrated, [words indistinct] between 900 and 1000 contras in national territory, in small units of 10 to 15 men, dispersed throughout the country, launching attacks on the civilian population."

Commenting on the forthcoming Central American presidents' summit in San Salvador, President Ortega said:

[Ortega, in progress] "...to fight for compliance, continued compliance with the peace plan, so that a new step, a clearly new step, is taken. We are also convinced that all problems cannot be solved at this meeting. What is important is that a new step is taken, that it is made very clear to the international community that the Central American people believe that the peace plan is still viable and worthy of respect, and that the plan is still the path to peace and democracy, and that, therefore, it should bring the war to an absolute end."

President Holds Talks With Opposition Parties

PA0802214189 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has begun a series of meetings with local civic opposition leaders. During the first meeting, President Ortega gave details about the proposals Nicaragua will present at the upcoming presidential summit to be held in San Salvador on 13-14 February.

The first meeting, which was held at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center last night, had the participation of leaders of four legally formed opposition political parties and of leaders of a group of parties who are taking steps to legally register their parties.

Political sources asserted that the participants at the meeting with Ortega will not comment on their bilateral talks with the Nicaraguan president. It was learned that it was a friendly meeting in which Ortega and the opposition leaders exchanged viewpoints.

A second meeting between Ortega and other political opposition leaders, including leaders of parties not represented at the National Assembly, will be held in the next few hours.

The following persons participated at the first meeting with President Ortega last night: Mauricio Diaz and Luis Humberto Guzman of the Popular Social Christian Party, PPSC; Clemente Guido, chief of the Democratic Conservative Party of the Nicaraguan wing at the National Assembly, and Sergio Torres of that same wing; Eduardo Coronado, Rodolfo Robelo Herrera, and Lombardo Martinez of the Independent Liberal Party for National Unity, PLIUN; Guillermo Potoy, Adolfo Jarquin, Santos Tijerino, and Adan Morales of the Social Democratic Party, PSD, which is not represented at the National Assembly; and Erick Ramirez, Julio Ramon Garcia, and Francisco Taboada of the Social Christian Party, PSC.

Deputy Foreign Minister on Contras, U.S.

AU0902094389 Vienna KURIER in German
9 Feb 89 p 3

[Report on interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Javier Chamorro by Stefan Galoppi: "Nicaragua Hopes for 'Mature' Bush"; date and place not given—Chamorro responses in quotation marks]

[Text]

On New U.S. President George Bush

"We hope that he will be mature and patient enough to correctly analyze the situation in Central America. He should understand that 8 years of a policy of war are doomed to failure. The contras' policy is not an opposition. Less so now than ever."

On Nicaragua's Readiness for Concessions

Nicaragua has shown flexibility and will continue to do so. We are aware of the United States' historical role in Central America. We are ready to guarantee Washington's security interests, but we call for the guarantee of our independence. The Sandinist revolution is not anti-American, but it aims at independence. The Reagan administration has never understood this."

On the Latest Deadlock in the Peace Process

"Costa Rican President Arias suggested waiting for President Bush to define his Central American policy. This has resulted in considerable confusion."

On the Contras

"At present, the contras are a nonexistent force. They are in a state of dissolution. We are ready to welcome all contras, while guaranteeing them all their rights."

Government Says PSC Tied to 'Sabotage'

PA0802142889 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
3 Feb 89 pp 1, 5

[Text] Leaders and members of the Social Christian Party [PSC] in Comoapa led and participated in six counterrevolutionary units that took part in a plan promoted by the FDN that included attacks on civilians and economic targets.

This was revealed yesterday by Subcommander Andres Garcia, head of state security in region five. He said the dismantling of this group and the capture of six of its members—and their statements—confirm the PSC's direct involvement in terrorist activities. We must also point out that this party was involved in similar activities in region two, Garcia added.

He said, "It worries us that the party is being used as a smoke screen to carry out counterrevolutionary activities," and he pointed out that in a 28 January LA PRENSA article entitled "Other PSC Activists Were Captured," PSC Vice President Chester Guevara accused the government and military authorities of detaining fellow party members because of political proselytism.

Subcommander Garcia said there is evidence that the PSC headquarters in Managua is hiding Juan Jose Rodriguez, who was in charge of the counterrevolutionary internal structure while serving as PSC vice president in Camoapa. Party member Juana Blandon, who was also a member of the unit while serving as a teacher in El Roblar, near Camoapa, is also being hidden, he added. These two individuals have not yet been captured. One hundred and fifty pounds of C-4 explosives, safety fuse, electric cord, an M-79, six grenades, a Claymore mine, and an AK rifle were seized from PSC counterrevolutionary elements Juan Jose Rodriguez and Juana Blandon. This materiel was going to be used to carry out sabotage in Camoapa and to ambush trucks of the Modesto Duarte Company.

The counterrevolutionary network, which was being organized in mid-1988, was led by rebel leaders "Zona Franca" and "Colina," who operate in northern Santo Domingo, south of Cuapa and southeast of Camoapa.

Juan Jose Rodriguez, who was pardoned last year in accordance with Esquipulas II, returned to his hometown and became a standard-bearer of PSC principles and continued his counterrevolutionary activities by leading six counterrevolutionary units.

The head of security said five knapsacks were seized during a scuffle between MINT [Interior Ministry] and EPS troops and a contra group led by "Colina" on 12 January in El Zancudo, north of Camoapa, on the farm of Gracian Sandigo—a contra collaborator. Inside one of the knapsacks was a letter from "Zona Franca" to "Colina" revealing the internal structure of units in Camoapa and El Roblar and the names of their members.

Gonzalez is listed as a leader, and Rafael Aviles, Oudry Aleman, Erasmo Soza, Jose Ines Corea Castillo, Maria Ines Bodan, and Juan Blandon are also mentioned.

The members of Agustin Jarquin Anaya's PSC faction involved in the counterrevolutionary units and scheduled for trial are Oudry Aleman Hurtado, 24; Erasmo Soza Diaz, 36; and Jose Ines Corea Castillo. The PSC also attempted to involve Jose Enrique Fernandez, Rafael Aviles, and Gracian Sandigo Duarte, who are being held by state security.

All of these individuals except Sandigo were present at a mid-1988 meeting in the El Roblar area with the contra leaders known as "Camoapa," "Zona Franca," and "Animalito," with whom they discussed the organization of units in Camoapa that would be in charge of economic sabotage.

Wearing a heavy beard, Jose Enriquez Fernandez Mendez, 29, told reporters: "I was recruited by 'Zona Franca' because he wanted me to work with him; he gave me a Kalashnikov and a knapsack in September 1988."

"I did not want to work with him because I am a cattle breeder and no one has bothered me." They did, nevertheless, get him involved.

Fernandez maintains that he was later given 150 pounds of C-4 explosives and was told to contact Jose Rodriguez—whom he says is the organization's top figure—and give him the explosives, which were for use in a series of actions scheduled to take place in Camoapa.

If You Are Arrested the Party Will Help You

Another confessed rebel, 45-year-old Rafael Aviles, a driver, says that municipal PSC Vice President Rodriguez got him involved by recruiting him as a contra collaborator. "I would slip away from him, but regardless of where I went he would locate me. He instructed me to join the PSC which, he said, would offer me many benefits. If you are arrested tomorrow, Jose Rodriguez would tell me, the party will help you," Aviles said. At the El Roblar meeting he was given an M-79 and six grenades.

Oudry Aleman, a driver, was given a Claymore mine, safety fuses, and detonators, which he was to use to ambush a Modesto Duarte Company truck.

Subcommander Garcia has warned that the full weight of revolutionary law will be applied against terrorists, and that the investigation will continue because state security believes more people in this city in Boaco Department are involved.

PSC Leader on Need for Talks With Government

PA0902000689 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Feb 89

[News conference by Erick Ramirez, president of the Social Christian Party, PSC, with unidentified reporters; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Ramirez] No, this is the desire of the entire Nicaraguan opposition. At the meetings we have been holding lately, we have always reiterated the need for a dialogue with the government. In fact, the most recent document signed by the 14 parties and organizations clearly states the need to seek ways to resume the national dialogue to discuss the proposals the opposition has been presenting. The government is the one that has not given any positive answer to the opposition's initiative. It seems to us that dialogue and negotiations are always positive, because if that is not so, the only alternative that the most desperate groups in this country have is to continue using violence.

[Reporter] What are the proposals presented by the opposition? You say you have been talking lately. What are those proposals—democratization, amnesty, what?

[Ramirez] There are a series of proposals regarding constitutional amendments, the amendments to the electoral code, the laws regulating political parties, and the laws on municipalities. We believe the opposition has even adopted a more flexible position and is willing to attend a national open dialogue without preconditions. In view of our position, it is the government that now has the last word on this.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] petition of first [words indistinct]?

[Ramirez] The problem is the topic of the constitutional amendments is presently an extremely difficult topic to discuss, because we have already entered 1989 and the government has decided to discuss the amendments in two legislative periods. If the government agreed to hold a kind of discussion about the constitutional amendments with us, we are sure we would begin the electoral process without fearing any [words indistinct]. That is why the opposition has been saying it is necessary to examine those topics on which we could reach a political consensus.

There are a series of political and electoral issues, including the 17 constitutional amendments worth discussing. The opposition has been slightly modifying its position to make it more flexible and therefore have the opportunity to call for a national dialogue within more flexible conditions.

[Reporter] What are the conditions for a national dialogue?

[Ramirez] The government must call all the opposition political parties to hold a dialogue. We should then agree on the immediate points and topics of discussion, because the Sandinist government is presenting unilateral initiatives. That attitude forces the opposition to make important decisions. It either refrains from participating in any electoral process called by the government or tries to seek some kind of agreement so from now on the opposition has a voice in all the decisions regarding the electoral process.

If we do not do something now, the opposition could eventually find itself completely left out of this electoral process; such adverse conditions would force the opposition not to participate in the elections, because the regime would have established the rules of the game. The opposition will have to either participate in the elections under the conditions unilaterally established by the government or will try to seek ways to participate in the organization of the elections. If the opposition does not do something now, it will be forced not to participate in the elections as things stand now.

[Reporter] What does the opposition think about the peace proposal presented by President Ortega in Venezuela?

[Ramirez] It is absolutely inadequate, because amnesty cannot only cover those who are abroad. An amnesty law must include the thousands of political prisoners who have been imprisoned in our jails for almost 10 years. A partial amnesty is obviously a propagandistic and political game, because it does not provide unity and reconciliation. For us, the amnesty law announced by Ortega in Caracas is an imminently tactical maneuver that does not entail a true political will to solve our country's problems through negotiations.

New Exchange Rate, Fuel Prices Announced

PA0802221289 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] The Central Bank of Nicaragua has established a new exchange rate for the cordoba effective tomorrow, 6 February. The new exchange rate is 2,700 cordobas to the dollar.

Likewise, the General Directorate of Hydrocarbons has revealed the new prices for oil by-products. Effective Monday, 6 February, a gallon of gasoline will cost 5,600 cordobas, a gallon of diesel will cost 4,100 cordobas, and a gallon of kerosene will cost 3,600 cordobas.

Panama

COLINA Candidate Affirms Party Goals

PA0902030989 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 7 Feb 89 pp 16, 8

[Speech by Ramon Sieiro, National Liberation Coalition (COLINA) first vice presidential candidate, at the Labor Party (PALA) convention at the Lux Theater in Panama City on 6 February]

[Text] Dear PALA family and invited guests:

With your selection today of men such as Carlos Duque, Aquilino Boyd, and myself as candidates to the nation's Presidency and vice presidencies, you have bestowed upon us the greatest honor that a representative democracy can bestow upon its citizens.

We will participate in the electoral race, free of prejudice, fear, hatred, and extreme passions. We plan to confront our adversaries with a civil, honest, and very respectful campaign, maintaining our decency and putting aside violence.

I am convinced that ours is the cause of justice and liberty, and I know that most Panamanian people share our principles. This will be demonstrated during the upcoming elections.

I view the elections as a vibrant and direct dialogue among the various sectors of the population. The principle of people's sovereignty lies within the people. The effort we are undertaking today, therefore, is a path to peace and harmony that will make national reconciliation possible because it is fundamental to the achievement of our fullest development.

By thus overcoming our differences at the polls, we will be able to unite in a joint effort to intensify and increase production, which is essential to the advancement of progress and the well-being of all Panamanians, without rancor and suspicion. All just societies must contain these elements to achieve true development.

I must emphasize that one factor that is basic to this country's true development is the level of social harmony that exists between Panamanians, regardless of their ideological and political inclinations and of the many differences that emerge in all societies.

When we win the elections in May, we will show our people that no one is more capable than we are of raising the Panamanian people's standard of living through specific actions that will eliminate poverty and unemployment while maintaining adequate overall levels of health, education, housing, and social security.

At this time I inform you that the party's fundamental goal is to improve conditions for children and to strengthen the family, which is the basic unit of Isthmian society.

As professionals of the science of agronomy, we will be permanently concerned with projects designed to develop the agricultural field through a planned agricultural system that will allow us to incorporate the necessary technology for our peasants and farmers to receive fair compensation for their investment and their work.

With these lofty ideals, PALA has for a long time called for an open national dialogue without prior conditions. Those who did not want to listen to reason must listen to the voice of the people reflected in the election returns. The Panamanian people will express their opinion and their verdict at the polls, totally exercising representative democracy. Each Panamanian will be able to vote freely according to his conscience, with justice and authentic democracy, at the electoral polls. We know, PALA companeros, that that voice of the people reflected in the votes will say: Yes to COLINA...

Yes!! to the Panamanians who want the overall progress of the people...

Yes!! to social harmony and peace.

At this stellar moment of our lives, we are faithfully convinced that my designation is but a tribute to PALA's tenacity, drive, and organization. Without a doubt, we owe this designation to each and every one of you, to those great anonymous heroes, courageous men and women who never appear on television or in the newspapers but who, with their strength and spirit, have made PALA the leading party of the country and the true alternative party. What was formerly the dream of creating a new and different party in Panama is a beautiful reality today.

If you, fellow party members, have honored me with this important nomination, which belongs to all of us, then the fraternal message I am sending to the PALA rank and file today is that now we must work together with enthusiasm and courage, not only to obtain the 100,000 votes we expect to obtain, but to obtain many more than 150,000 votes.

I also want to express special recognition to the extraordinary PALA women who have known how to give their tenderness, love, and loyalty to the party.

We are undertaking the final stage of the electoral process, united with COLINA, which represents sovereign and independent dignity, to advance on the peak of victory, with the broad majority support of all the conscientious, responsible Panamanians who are ready to reiterate definitely and irrevocably that nothing and nobody can halt the march of a people who will never be defeated!! There is no one with more ability than we have to give a better Panama...to our beloved Panamanian people!!!

Today is a very special day in view of the immense responsibility you have given me. Therefore, I humbly ask God and the Virgin Mary to illuminate the path we are undertaking.

To conclude, I want to express my tender recognition to my wife and children, to my mother and father, to my brothers, relatives, and all of you, my friends, for sharing this commitment with us, to struggle, so on this upcoming 7 May, in a single embrace, the Panamanians will celebrate our victory, the legitimate victory of the Panamanian people.

Colony, no!!!

COLINA, yes!!!

Candidates Receive Endorsements

PA0802192389

[Editorial Report] Panama City CRITICA on 7 February carries six reports, four of them by staff writer Hollis Robinson, on party conventions held on 6 February, at which the candidates of the progovernment National Liberation Alliance, COLINA, were endorsed.

A 2,500-word report by Robinson on pages 16 and 13 states that the Revolutionary Panamenist Party, led by Gaspar "Toty" Suarez, held its national convention in the La Huaca Hall of the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City for a dual purpose: to choose the members of the party's National Executive Committee, and to endorse the COLINA candidates.

The report states that after introducing the candidates, Suarez urged them to govern with and for the people, and warned that just as he is now supporting them at a time of nationalist struggle, he might also oppose them in the future if they turn their backs on the people.

A 300-word report by Garritt H. Geneteaud D. on pages 16 and 14 states that a Liberal Party convention held at the Balboa Theater also endorsed the COLINA candidates. The report cites party president Rodolfo Chiari De Leon as saying: "COLINA will win a sweeping victory in the coming elections because we have the best candidates, candidates with the stature of Carlos Duque, Ramon Sieiro, and Aquilino Boyd."

A 400-word report on pages 16 and 8, also by Robinson, cites Colonel Camilo Saavedra, new president of the National Action Party, as saying that his party is small but it plans to make itself felt in the upcoming elections. Saavedra reportedly added: "That is why the party has joined COLINA—to contribute to its victory." The party then officially endorsed the COLINA candidates.

A 400-word report by Robinson on pages 16 and 14, on the People's Party convention at the Atlapa Convention Center, cites party Secretary General Ruben Dario Sousa as saying in his endorsement of the COLINA candidates that his party will not falter in facing up to the "hordes" of the opposition, which, he says, has "made a pact with the devil to give the fatherland over to the imperialist government."

A 300-word report by Robinson on pages 16 and 14 states that the Workers Democratic Party also held its convention at the Atlapa Convention Center. The report cites labor leader Eduardo Rios Molinar, who was elected party president, as saying that workers form the country's backbone and that the fatherland depends on them. The report says that the party central committee then proceeded to endorse the COLINA candidates.

An unattributed report on pages 16 and 8 on the Republican Party convention at the Rey Kung Restaurant in Panama City states that on endorsing the COLINA candidates, party president Jorge Young described them as nationalistic and honest. He is quoted as saying that, to the contrary, the opposition candidates have "sold out to U.S. interests and have obviously helped sink the Panamanian people into misery."

Weekly Review of Political Situation

PA0902022489

[Editorial Report] The following is a review of material from Panamanian and regional media related to the current political situation in Panama. This review covers the period 31 January to 6 February and includes some items that have been processed in fuller form.

Domestic Political Affairs

During the reporting period, Panamanian media devoted much time and space to the events surrounding the nomination of the National Liberation Coalition's (COLINA) ticket of Carlos Duque Jaen (president), Ramon Sieiro Murgas (first vice president), and Aquilino Boyd (second vice president) for the 7 May national elections.

During the evening of 1 February, Panama City Domestic Service broadcast a news conference held at the Continental Hotel in Panama City during which COLINA announced its candidates by stating that "we have formed a ticket for national liberation; a ticket for liberation, sovereignty, national development, and compliance with the Torrijos-Carter treaties." Reports on the nomination were also carried by Panama City LA REPUBLICA, MATUTINO, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, and CRITICA on 2 February.

In reporting reaction to the COLINA ticket from the opposition Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC), Panama City ACAN on 2 February quoted an ADOC spokesman as saying that "the selection confirms Noriega is the real candidate." In the same report, Christian Democratic Party Legislator Guillermo Cochez is quoted as saying that "the three (candidates) are Noriega employees" and as referring to Aquilino Boyd in particular as a "leftover of the oligarchy who is out of his league."

MATUTINO and Panama City Televisora Nacional on 2 February carried statements by pro-Noriega regime supporters praising the selection of the COLINA candidates. Among those whose statements were published were Rolando Murgas, minister of education; Julio Harris, deputy finance minister; Humberto Lopez Tirone, former director of the Human Resources, Education, and Training Institute; Alberto Aleman Boyd, member of the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, and former president of the Legislative Assembly; and Mauro Murillo, general secretary of the Union of Workers of the National Institute of Telecommunications. Similarly, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 5 February carried statements by Legislative Assembly President Celso Carrizo praising the COLINA ticket.

In its 3 February editorial, MATUTINO describes the COLINA candidates as "three real patriots." Similar praise is expressed in the same paper's "Let the People Judge" and "Fausto's Mailbox" columns. Editorials appearing in the 2 February editions of the Panama City papers, MEDIODIA and LA REPUBLICA, express similar support.

Panamanian broadcast and print media reported that the following parties belonging to COLINA held their respective national conventions on 6 February: PRD, Labor Party, National Action Party, Revolutionary Panamenist Party, Republican Party, People's Party, and the Revolutionary Workers Party.

The media reported that all these parties had decided to support the COLINA presidential ticket of Duque, Sieiro, and Boyd.

While expressing support for the COLINA ticket, Panamanian media were also observed to carry extensive criticism of opposition parties and leaders during the reporting period. Panama City Domestic Service on 1 February broadcast a station commentary describing the Christian Democrats as "losers," giving the Salvadoran and Guatemalan governments as examples. CRITICA on 1 February carried an unattributed report on the recent Christian Democratic International (CDI) meeting held in Panama City and attended by former Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins and CDI President Flaminio Piccoli. According to the report, "while guests of the Panamanian Christian Democratic Party, the two men were actively involved in Panama's domestic affairs." The report adds that Herrera Campins and Piccoli "openly advocated the ousting of the Panamanian Government." In his "Political Arena" column in CRITICA on 1 February, Baltazar Renan Aizpurua

criticizes the CDI meeting and describes Christian Democratic Party leader Ricardo Arias Calderon as a "charlatan." Although an article by Mario Augusto Rodriguez in the 1 February LA REPUBLICA states that Arias Calderon should have been the presidential candidate on the opposition ticket because "he earned that right," Aizpurua asks God in his 2 February "Political Arena" column to protect Panama "from men like Ricardo Arias Calderon." He also criticizes the CDI meeting in this column, recalling that "birds of a feather flock together."

As for opposition activities, Panamanian media and regional press agencies reported on ADOC's attempts to register before the Panama Electoral Tribunal (TEP) for the 7 May elections. Both MEDIODIA and LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 31 January reported that TEP had rejected ADOC's documents because the documents were lacking the Authentic Liberal Party's statement of participation in the alliance. On 1 February, however, Madrid EFE reported that TEP had accepted the documents. EFE cited TEP Secretary Carlos Bonilla as saying that "apparently, everything was in order." Although the 2 February LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA reported that ADOC had resubmitted its registration documents and "had corrected omissions pointed out by TEP authorities," as of 6 February Panamanian media had not been observed to report TEP's acceptance of the documents.

After learning that TEP had not initially accepted ADOC's documents, Edgardo Molino Mola, dean of the University of Panama Law School, was reported by RPC Television on 1 February to have said that "the fact that TEP rejected the documents presented by the opposition is evidence of the difficulties to be encountered by the opposition in the months to come."

Also on 1 February, Circuito RPC Television carried a report on a "violent" breaking and entering incident at the offices of Faundes and Faundes law firm. Jose Manuel Faundes said that although "nothing was taken," the incident "is evidently politically motivated." Faundes was shown telling RPC Television reporters that "this is a political threat against us because we are among the opposition. When I entered the office I found a note that read: 'This is our first warning.' This is proof of a threat."

Meanwhile, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA reported on 3 February that ADOC had drafted its campaign plans, which include touring the nine provinces and other areas of the country. The report adds that the tours are expected to begin shortly.

As the 7 February election registration deadline approached, the media began reporting on the stances or tendencies of other political parties. On 31 January, Circuito RPC Television reported that the Popular Nationalist Party had officially announced that it will support the ADOC ticket in the 7 May elections. On 2 February, RPC Television reported that the Workers Socialist Party had announced it would support neither COLINA nor ADOC. According to the report, the party feels that "ADOC and COLINA do not represent the true interests of the labor and popular movement... ADOC denies the nation its right to self-determination while COLINA is the path to defeat of the nationalist struggle."

On 6 February, MATUTINO, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, and CRITICA carried reports on the Authentic Panamenist Party (PPA) convention held at the Santa Ana Square in Panama City. The party members chose Hildebrando Nicosia, current party leader, to head its presidential ticket in the 7 May elections. The papers reported the party's first and second vice presidential candidates to be Alfonso Diaz and Emiliano Ponce Aguilar, respectively.

Concerning general election preparations, MATUTINO on 1 February carried a report from TEP announcing that "tens of thousands" of Panamanian citizens who will be running for office in the 7 May elections had already received the forms they must fill out and present to TEP before the 7 February deadline. LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, MATUTINO, and CRITICA on 3 February reported that TEP had announced it would not extend the 7 February deadline for the presentation of documents by political parties and independent groups or individuals wishing to run for office.

MEDIODIA on 30 January carried statements by Father Fernando Guardia Jaen, who has suggested the establishment of an independent organization "to supervise the various phases of the voting process, from the actual casting of votes to the final count." He suggested a system similar to the one implemented during the elections in the Philippines. On 31 January, however, CRITICA charged that Father Guardia now wants to get involved in politics and is "thinking of setting up his own Electoral Tribunal."

Economic Developments

The country's economic situation and measures to address it continued to be reported in the media. Circuito RPC Television on 31 January cited Comptroller General Francisco Rodriguez as saying that the government's economic situation calls for a reduction in government personnel. He added that the government is currently cutting down on its spending but will have to reduce personnel. Meanwhile, MEDIODIA and Televisora Nacional on 2 February and MATUTINO and MEDIODIA on 3 February reported that government workers will receive their 13th-month bonus payment in late February and that union leaders have already rejected a government measure to cut wages, suggesting the elimination of "sinecures" instead.

On 31 January, MEDIODIA carried an unattributed report stating that the Santo Tomas Hospital had canceled all nonemergency surgery due to a lack of surgical

supplies. However, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA and Circuito RPC Television on 2 February and CRITICA on 4 February carried statements by government officials denying the MEDIODIA report. These officials were reported as saying that surgery had been canceled because the government-operated facility is being renovated. The Santo Tomas Hospital's director was quoted by CRITICA as saying that "despite the U.S. Government's aggression, the hospital is operating normally."

Progress on the agricultural front was reported. Televisora Nacional on 31 January and MATUTINO on 1 February reported that Panama and Spain have signed a $12.7-million agreement to strengthen Panama's agricultural sector. LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 3 February reported that the Ministry of Agriculture's contingency plan to help rice producers has been successful. The report states that 44,000 hectares were planted and 3.2 million quintals of rice harvested. The rice will be used for local consumption.

Optimism appeared elsewhere in the media. MEDIODIA on 31 January quoted new Commerce Minister Isaac Hanono as saying that the Panamanian businessman "is very creative." Hanono added that despite the problems encountered, "we have all we need, and the cost of living has not increased." CRITICA and LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 2 February report that two cruise ships docked in Panama in January. The article adds that this is a sign that "things are getting better." Televisora Nacional on 2 February and CRITICA, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, and MATUTINO on 3 February reported that Panamanian ports, with the help of the Panama Railroad, will begin transshipment service on 4 February. The service will cut transportation costs and time, and will be provided between the ports of Balboa and Cristobal.

Relations With the United States

Panamanian media continued to report accusations of U.S. Government violations of the Torrijos-Carter treaty. On 1 February, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA carried the text of an FDP communique stating that the U.S. Administration had approved $50 million for improvements on Howard Air Force Base. The communique added that "these arbitrary actions violate the treaties and show the Panamanian Government and international community that the U.S. Government has no intention of giving Howard Air Force Base to Panama on 31 December 1999." The text of the communique was also carried by Circuito RPC Television on 1 February.

In its 1 February editorial, LA REPUBLICA condemns the "U.S. attempts to remain on the military bases past the year 2000." The editorial adds that "this is why they are willing to spend as much as they feel will be necessary" to get their "docile leader" to win in the upcoming elections. However, the Panamanian people will reject this attempt when they cast their votes against an opposition "subject to orders from the Pentagon."

CRITICA, in its 2 February issue, carried an unattributed report on alleged problems caused by the road the U.S. soldiers are building around Howard Air Force Base to keep civilians from having to pass through the base. It cites as an example "the fact that U.S. forces' machinery tore up some power lines that left the nearby Kobbe Beach area without power for a whole weekend." Likewise, MATUTINO on 3 February carried an unattributed report on a group of Kuna Indians who are worried for the safety of their families who live in Veracruz. They have asked the Panamanian Government to protect them from the U.S. soldiers who are "harassing the residents of the area through illegal arrests."

LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA and CRITICA on 4 February carried unattributed reports on the alleged use by U.S. Army of a fleet of rental cars for espionage activities in Panama. The reports cite Panama traffic police as saying these vehicles, with "license plates changed to official U.S. Army plates and equipped with two-way radios and flashing police lights," are being used "to collect and disseminate information." Panama City Domestic Service on 5 February carried a similar report condemning the use of rental vehicles for such purposes.

Circuito RPC Television on 2 February carried statements by PRD Legislator Luis Gomez on talks between the Legislative Assembly's Canal Affairs Committee and Finance Ministry officials. Gomez reports that it was agreed that all "confiscation proceedings" against U.S. Government employees would be "suspended for a month." Legislator Gomez added that the situation "has the Panama Canal workers very nervous and tense." However, the Domestic Service on 3 February carried statements by Revenue Director Ricardo Levi, who said the government measures will continue to be implemented against those who have not paid their taxes.

On 6 February, Buenos Aires REUTER carried a report on statements by former Panamanian Commerce Minister Mario Rognoni. According to Rognoni, the U.S. charges against "strongman" General Manuel Antonio Noriega backfired. Rognoni is quoted as stating that "all they did was strengthen Noriega's control of the country... If anyone learned a lesson, it was the United States."

Relations With Other Countries

The trip by Minister in Charge of the Presidency Manuel Solis Palma to Venezuela to attend the inauguration of President Carlos Andres Perez received substantial Panamanian media coverage. LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, MATUTINO, and CRITICA on 3 February all carried an identical unattributed report describing Solis

Palma as "a leading protagonist in one the most important actions to be performed by the heads of state of the Third World countries; namely, the creation of a common front to ensure respect for their democracies in their relations with the great powers and other industrialized nations, and to coordinate the further development of those relations." LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 3 February and CRITICA and MATUTINO on 4 February carried a PANAPRESS dispatch noting that during his stay in Caracas, Solis Palma had met with Cuban President Fidel Castro and other heads of state. Televisora Nacional also broadcast on 4 February a Solis Palma interview with Venezuelan television reporters during which he discussed the Panama situation and election preparations. In addition, the Domestic Service covered live Solis Palma's return from Venezuela on 4 February, noting that he was met by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces (FDP).

Concerning Panama's participation in the Group of Eight, during an interview with local and foreign correspondents broadcast by the Domestic Service upon his return from Caracas, Solis Palma mentioned the Group of Eight meeting held there. He said that "we did not participate in the Group of Eight meeting. That was not on the agenda. They were to hold a scheduled meeting, and the question of Panama's participation had not been settled." Upon his arrival in Panama, Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter was greeted with the same question from Domestic Service reporter Eduardo Martinez. Ritter responded: "No, it was not on the Group of Eight's agenda and was not on the schedule we had set." LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 5 February carried a similar report, stating that Solis Palma had also said that Panama is not negotiating its reinstatement in the Group of Eight; "perhaps, in the future."

The Group of Eight issue was also raised in unattributed articles by LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 5 February and MATUTINO on 6 February. The articles reported a message from the People's Electoral Movement, Socialist Party of Venezuela, to the Group of Eight presidents stating the importance of "Panama's reinstatement in the Group of Eight." According to the reports, the Venezuelan political organization feels the reinstatement is important "being that Panama is the only Central American country represented in the organization." The report added that the People's Electoral Movement felt that there is no reason to exclude Panama from the group.

In commenting on Solis Palma's Venezuela trip, MATUTINO on 6 February carried an editorial entitled "The News Conferences in Caracas." The editorial praised the way Solis Palma handled himself during his meetings with the press and for the accuracy of his answers to reporters' questions. The editorial added that "unfortunately, this cannot be said for U.S. Vice President Quayle or ADOC vice presidential candidate Ricardo Arias Calderon," whose news conference was described by MATUTINO as "boring."

ADOC presidential and vice presidential candidates Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford were also reported to have attended Perez' inauguration. Paris AFP on 1 February reported that "the Panamanian opposition's presidential candidate today publicly asked the Group of Eight to supervise actively and effectively 'to prevent fraud' in the 7 May Panamanian elections."

Perez himself commented on the Panamanian situation during a news conference for the local and foreign press carried live by Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 on 4 February. After stating that "I assumed the responsibility of inviting the minister in charge of the Panamanian Presidency to my inauguration even though I knew the prevailing feeling of the Latin American leaders is that they would have preferred he not be here," President Perez said that if Noriega gives up his military power, "he would be doing a great service to Panama and Latin America." Perez added that Panama's reinstatement in the Group of Eight would not be possible "until there are firm and clear signs of a resumption of the democratic process in Panama." As of 6 February, Panamanian media have not been observed to carry any comment on President Perez' statements.

In addition to Solis Palma's contacts in Caracas, Panamanian media noted other contacts with foreign officials. Televisora Nacional on 31 January reported that Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo stopped over in Panama en route to the Perez inauguration and was met at the airport by Solis Palma and Gen Noriega.

MATUTINO on 3 February and CRITICA and MATUTINO on 6 February each carried reports on Panama's being invited to join the "Subregional Group for Consultations at a High Level," GAN. The reports say the group, which is associated with the Action Committee for the Economic and Social Development of Central America, will negotiate international cooperation with the EEC and other European countries. During a GAN meeting in Panama, MATUTINO reports that Panamanian Deputy Planning Minister Azael Purcait said that "today more than ever, Panama needs the support of brother countries." Speaking before GAN members, Purcait said that "Panama is more affected than other Central American countries, because the aggression it is experiencing is being conducted by someone Panama never considered an enemy."

Correction to Nicosia Accepts PPA Nomination

PA0702200389

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Nicosia Accepts Nomination of PPA Faction," published in the 7 February Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 26, column one:

page 26, column two, after final paragraph add the following text, thus concluding Nicosia's speech: [new paragraph]

Economic and social inequality prevent harmonious development. It is not enough to preach morals, to suggest fairness, and to cry loudly for democracy, justice, and freedom. We must promote spiritual excellence. We must work for an overall transformation of Panama's society in order to place wealth at the service of man and not man at the service of wealth. Small minorities that are eager for power and profit want to monopolize political power, wealth, and the means for attaining culture while vast majorities endure poverty and neglect. Gentlemen officials and opposition candidates: Go out and meet the people in the interior and the slum areas of La Chorrera, San Miguelito, and the metropolitan areas, where half of the country's inhabitants live, and share your life stories with them. Panama's reality does not lie on the banks of the silly interoceanic canal or in places of isolated development like Panama City. Ours is a reality of poverty, backwardness, and ignorance that goes hand in hand with the drama of the slave in the countryside and the areas inhabited by Indians.

Everybody wants to earn more, eat better, and dress well. All want access to the sources of power, to economic opportunities, to theoretical and humanistic knowledge. We must end monopolies, stamp out privilege, take bold action to curb the excesses of the upper class and the impatience of the lower class in order to let a new society emerge in Panama on the basis of legal equality, economic democracy, and spiritual enlightenment for all.

Some have replaced freedom with despotism, drinking from the fountains of Caesar. With the support of privileged groups and others who abuse authority, laws are enacted to cater to the whims of those holding the purse strings to the public treasury—the rich people of the past, present, and future. Few toe the stark and magnificent line of our liberators. Many stray from it under the overwhelming weight of extreme power. Bad government is largely to blame for the collective backwardness.

This is the end of the line. No one on earth has ever ruled without essentially basing his power on public opinion, and in this country the majority of the public is in the opposition. However, it is an independent opposition that is not subservient to anything, to vested interests or to military hierarchies.

We do not have to look for the enemy outside our country. Its name is not Uncle Sam. Our enemy is the malicious and primitive barbarity that unbridles hatred, revenge, unnecessary cruelty, and persecution by one side against the other with such power that it works as a boomerang. We call for a spirit of struggle and justice to fight our past easy living and anarchy. We must first have a government of souls and then we will have a foundation on which to build a state, because there cannot be a stable homeland without true men.

The vile economic sanctions we are suffering are a wrong for which Panamanians and foreigners alike will be held accountable. It is infamy to justify the harm that has been done with a promise to bring about economic recovery with alms from the colossus of the north. Why do these people not speak of sharing their ill-received wealth and bringing well-being to the humble people?

We must tell the young people stark and plain truths. We need men who look at the stars but who stand on solid ground to build their own destiny, to make their work produce more, to pursue their goals more zealously, to be moral and honest. Nothing is better in troubled times than a good sailor who is vigilant and faces the storm.

We PPA members are symbols of pragmatic virtue, constant devotion to duty, and productive idealism. Panama must be a place of harmony and joy amid the hardships and trials faced by its people. Our attitude inspires those who have integrity and terrifies the lawless.

It is true that all Panamanians must reconcile their differences in order to rebuild our nation, but there are other more important truths. An awakening in the villages and the countryside will make us strong and truly free. The amassing of wealth and land grabbing are two sore points in our country. A few enjoy too much at the expense of the suffering of many. A homeland must not be a monopoly that works in favor of a few but for the general well-being of all. Governing with the language of truth will help establish order and allow an equitable distribution of resources. Here man will not be at the service of the state but the state will be at the service of man. We must set limits on the disorganized bureaucracy that overwhelms us. Power must not be a divine right for a few to exploit the majority but a means through which to attain a fruitful peace based on responsibility for those who share our dream. We must cry for our homeland amid this carnival the way Jesus cried for Jerusalem. We must defend Panama as something infinitely precious because it is everlasting, and we must not forsake it for even an instant, in which it could be stolen, mistreated, or destroyed. We must achieve clarity in our vision of Panama's future by coming to the realization that Panama is essential, but it is also necessary that our new patriotism be real patriotism.

We PPA members work with dedication like ants. We work fast like the rabbit does along its own path. Like goats, we joyously climb cliffs and stand impassively gazing from the mountaintop.

The key words in our life must be diligence and happiness—diligence and perseverance in fulfilling our tasks and forbearance to accept all missions the Almighty entrusts to us. Diligence along the path of service to our fellow man and happiness and joy in showing the way to everybody we meet. This is the path for PPA members, who are going to save our Republic with the help of all good Panamanians.

Argentina

Minister Announces Energy Cut Adjustments

PY0802025389 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Public Works and Services Minister Rodolfo Terragno stated tonight that there will be no more electricity cuts this week. He said that there will be no need for the scheduled cuts on Thursday or Friday and added that there will be no more cuts on weekends.

In a message released through ATC [Argentina Televisora Color], Terrango stated, however, that we should not be overconfident. The cuts will return, but they will be 3-hour cuts instead of 6-hour cuts. He added that there will be no more cuts on weekends and we will not return to the 4-hour television broadcasts. However, the electricity crisis is not over yet, he said.

Shooting Incident at La Tablada Regiment Denied

PY0802112589 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Buenos Aires Police Chief Walter Jurado has confirmed that military personnel of the Villa Martelli 601st Regiment this morning heard some shots near the regiment. He denied, however, that the shooting occurred outside the La Tablada regiment, as has been reported.

The Army General Staff has denied reports that a military unit in La Tablada or Villa Martelli was attacked this morning, although he admitted that troops of the 601st Battallion in Villa Martelli heard two shots, but that no strange movement has been observed.

Former President Maria Peron Returns From Europe

PY0802174289 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1115 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Feb (NA)—Former president Maria Estela Martinez de Peron arrived from Madrid at 0855 on an Aerolineas Argentinas flight that had been delayed in Paris by thick fog.

The former president did not speak to the media, and her press secretary Carlos Amar said: "The lady is very tired after a long trip."

Peron's widow went to her apartment in Barrio Norte district in this capital, where she will rest for the next few hours.

Brazil

Paraguay's Stroessner Holds News Conference

PY0802123689 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Former Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner, who was overthrown on 3 February, has given his first news conference.

He said he does not know if he will stay in Brazil.

Stroessner said that he could move on to another country and that he does not rule out the possibility of returning to Paraguay. The former dictator made a statement before the news conference in which he stressed the cooperation he has always received from the Brazilian Government.

Stroessner added that he chose Brazil as a place for his exile because he knows the country well and because it is a friendly country.

The former Paraguayan president also stressed the help and attention that he has received from President Sarney, Ambassador Paulo Tarso Flech. de Lima, and First Secretary (Virigilim Moret de Dom ne).

The house in which former Pre ident Stroessner is staying is completely surrounded by an Army platoon, which was sent at the orders of the Foreign Ministry to reinforce his guard and is made up of civilian, military, and Federal police. When the troops arrived at the house, journalists and neighbors left the area. This did not, however, prevent some PT [Workers Party] leaders from staging a small protest march against Stroessner's presence in Brazil.

Financial 'Crisis' in War Materiel Industry

PY0802114089 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 7 Feb 89 p 13

[By Eustaquio de Freitas]

[Excerpts] Sao Jose dos Campos—The war materiel manufacturers—who for the past 10 years have been responsible for 70-90 percent of Brazilian-made weapon exports and for opening markets in 35 countries—this year hit the peak of a financial and administrative crisis which they will find it difficult to overcome.

After 3 years of international efforts to sell its 40-ton Osorio tank, ENGESA [Specialized Engineers, Inc] is in the red and is cutting its work force and its production. This comes after a golden period during which it was the largest seller of wheeled armored cars in the West.

ENGESA's constant competitor, Avibras Aeroespacial, the largest exporter in this sector in 1987, currently has a debt of some $500 million (500 million new cruzados at

the official exchange rate). This represents nearly four times last year's sales. Avibras has been forced to cut its labor force of 5,000 workers in half.

While the two enterprises have not revealed the strategy that will be implemented to overcome the crisis, both are confident that a slow and gradual recovery in the 2d half of this year will provide positive signs.

Raul Casanova, president of the Brazilian Association of Defense Materiel Industries, argues that "this is a localized critical situation in these two companies, which can be overcome by the signing of just one large contract." [passage omitted]

Avibras is currently supplying only two large clients: The Brazilian Army, which bought 13 FILA-type antiaircraft systems for $140 million, and Saudi Arabia, which bought Astro II systems worth $400 million. [passage omitted]

Avibras has slowly accumulated an inventory worth about $100 million. This equipment is ready for delivery but has not been shipped out because of Iraq's failure to make payments.

Japan To Grant $500 Million Loan in March

PY0902013589 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Summary] Japan will grant a $500 million loan to Brazil in March, at a lower-than-market interest rate. The loan will be earmarked for agricultural and port installation projects.

* Military Thought on Current Political Issues

33420027 Rio de Janeiro MANCHETE in Portuguese 14 Jan 89 pp 92-97

[Text] Inflation, Brizola, Lula, Erundina, succession, the church, the business world, socialism, parliamentarianism. What does the Brazilian military think about such controversial themes? Can General Leonidas Pires Goncalves be considered to be a stranger to the political arena? Is there a receptivity in the barracks to a military candidacy? What is the real position of the military ministers on themes as diverse as the growth of the Labor Party and glasnost, the historic political reform promoted in the Soviet Union by President Mikhail Gorbachev? The Brazilian political transition is 10 years old (it is older than that of Spain or Portugal, just to cite more recent political facts), and it is time that we knew what the military thinks. After all, 1988 can be defined as the most critical year in the period begun by President Sarney's taking of office: In Rio and Sao Paulo, at least, military readiness operations have already been carried out, and the Volta Redonda conflict, 1 week before the November elections, left dead and wounded, and threw battle fragments over the voting booths. In this X-ray of military thinking, we see one of the lanes on the highway the country is traveling.

On the eve of the great political chess game that represents the decisive phase in the preparation for the presidential succession, with candidates already being defined, the tendency of some military sectors is to unite the centrist forces against the candidates of the Left. The fear persists that the country is regressing because of ideologies and political practices considered in the barracks to be antiquated. The minister of the Navy, Admiral Henrique Saboia, for example, has alerted the factions that disagree with the so-called "retrograde static forces" that there is a need for a man of the people who will guarantee the growth of the economy.

All in all, the ideal profile drawn for the country by the military is that of a nation with solid institutions: politicians with broad credibility who are able to deal with crises; businessmen who are interested in technological and economic progress, and are committed to social peace; unions that are separate from political parties; and Armed Forces that are highly professional, modern, and apolitical. This rigidity of principle is reflected in the revelation by the joint chief of the Armed Forces, Admiral Valbert de Figueiredo, that he considers Brazil to be an "emerging power." That is to say, a rich country with vast natural resources, "but with a population that is poor." On that basis, the military also recognize that now they cannot repeat the errors of the past: conservative political alliances lacking in any social message or program. As an indication of how things are changing, Colonel of the Reserve Sebastiao Chaves—former joint chief of the old 2d Army—confides that he would vote for Senator Mario Covas, a Tucano indian. Similarly, other officials admit that the senator from the PSDB could be a good candidate. Meanwhile, there are also those who would harpoon the politician who gathered the most votes in the country, because of the leftist positions he has assumed in the recent past, and mainly at the time of voting on the constitution.

Ex-Minister of the Navy and present Petrobras Director of Transportation Admiral Maximiano da Fonseca favors ex-Minister Aureliano Chaves. But he appears to speak more from a sense of personal loyalty than on the basis of any enthusiasm or confidence regarding Aureliano's chances at the polls. In contrast with what happened during the 1950's, 60's and part of the 70's, the military ministers seem to be less interested in the declarations of political cronies (which were liked so much by the late General Golbery do Couto e Silva, who loved cabinet decisions), and are more committed to guaranteeing a close relationship between civil institutions, especially in the national Congress. Minister of Aviation Brigadier Octavio Moreira Lima is the first to condemn the continuation of the traditional gulf between military and political institutions—a gulf created in the past in order to limit backscratching relationships. Nevertheless, the so-called "camp followers" around the barracks still resist the times, and at some points seem to multiply as if they were a virus attacking the institutional organism. The expression became best known when it was used by the first president of the'64

movement, Marshal Castello Branco, when he referred to the businessmen and politicians who made the rounds of the barracks seeking support for their projects.

The present camp followers, meanwhile, have fallen in with a new element: the influence of the Armed Forces—in the political arena—increased considerably during 1988 (with the deepening of the crisis and the expectation of hyperinflation). Which is not to say, though, that there is receptivity at the military centers for a military candidacy. In contrast with what might be expected, among the military brass the name of Gen Leonidas is not being mentioned, for the moment, in terms of the presidential succession. Even Senator Jarbas Passarinho, who is viewed sympathetically by the Armed Forces, and principally by the ex-Minister of the EMFA [Armed Forces General Staff], Brigadier Paulo Roberto Camarinha, would have little chance (at the moment) of being supported as a candidate. The senator became president of the Congress during the military regime, had the support of the PMDB in the elections for the Constituent Congress, and rose to the top among candidates of the PCB. But he still has the image of the colonel, in spite of having been in the reserves for more than 20 years.

The (declared) profile of preference to the military for the candidate for the Presidency of the Republic is a civilian (not necessarily a politician), above reproach, and with a proven capacity for administration and modern political views. That is, without ideological dogma, and more concerned with the resolution of social conflict. The name of engineer Ozires Silva has emerged in this context. Although he has been a lieutenant-colonel in the reserves since the 60's, he has been able to offset his military image on the basis of his technical training. After all, he became popular in the business world as the man responsible for the projection of Brazilian industry into the difficult international aviation market and as ex-president of Petrobras. Added to this is his ease of movement among the politicians of several parties: PMDB, PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party], PT among others. Even Federal Deputy Plinio de Arruda Sampaio, one of the idealogues of the Labor Party, agrees.

However, the preference for Ozires creates no risk for the career of another engineer. If he is elected, the ex-governor of Rio Grande do Sul and Rio de Janeiro, Leonel Brizola, will have his assumption of office guaranteed by the military themselves. He has already overcome, at least partly, the resentment of the Armed Forces that resulted from the events of the 1961-64 period. He was able to arrange important meetings with the Army at the time that political leaders were being heard by the military regarding constitutional proposals and received subsidies from the Armed Forces. Which is not to say that all resistance has been dispelled. General Euclydes de Oliveira Figueiredo, in particular, considers Brizola to be a man "without a defined ideology, and interested in assuming power." On the other hand, Brigadier Camarinha, upon being consulted by a politician connected with the candidate, agreed to a meeting with Brizola. But he adds: "As long as it's not at my house. So it won't appear that I took the initiative." An there are also those who tolerate the ex-governor as the lesser of two evils, especially in the face of the possibility that the president of the Labor Party, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, might assume centralized power by occupying the Planalto Palace.

The phenomenon of Erundina, the new mayor of Sao Paulo, no longer creates panic in the military sector as some sources had predicted it would. Her victory, along with the growth of the Labor Party and the positive results achieved by the PDT [Democratic Workers Party] on 15 November, are interpreted as the results of a lack of satisfaction on the part of the voters with the performance of the traditional politicians. In the view of Minister Saboia, the growth of the PT and the PDT has been exaggerated in the published analyses of the municipal elections. The head of the joint chiefs, Adm Valbert de Figueiredo, has the same opinion.

And how is socialism viewed by the Armed Forces? Moreira Lima admits that it may be a valid system, but he bases this view on the experiences in Spain with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, and in France with Francois Mitterand. That is, the minister of aeronautics would agree to a socialism that he understands to be a system that places priority on the society, not on the individual. He is strongly critical of Brazilian socialists, although he does not identify any by name. He points toward socialist countries where free initiative is preserved, and condemns any kind of demagogic populism that "institutionalizes misery, stimulates the invasion of productive land, or inhibits productive sectors." He considers himself to be a "politically liberal conservative," and explains: "The conservative is that individual, as I see it, who doesn't believe in rapid societal transformations, and prefers changes inspired through a well-ordered project, as has been happening in England with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher."

Gen Euclydes' opinion is entirely different. He is the author of a famous phrase—"We have to swallow this frog"—said when Brizola was elected governor of Rio de Janeiro. The general (now in the reserves) is uncompromising: "Socialism is passe. Within 40 years, Brazil may be the only socialist country in the world, since all the others will have recognized that such a system imposes on them a lack of progress and an external dependency, and they will have opened up their economies." Brig Camarinha is also vehement: "No variation of socialism fits with the Brazilian's aspirations." Adm Maximiano points to the revision within the Soviet Union in their system of government. Moreira Lima, in this vein, praises Mikhail Gorbachev, considering him to be "a great world leader, and an example to the sectarians and to those who regard an ideology as a static thing."

Actually, the aeronautics minister is more concerned about what he classifies as "the most serious of our problems": the threat of hyperinflation. And he makes a prediction, with no attempt at disguising his anxiety: "If such inflation actually happens, many programs of importance to the country will have to be interrupted." He cites some (within aeronautics), emphasizing the AMX project, that for the airport infrastructure (there were no resources in the'88 budget for projects at the Rio International Airport), and that for flight protection to improve traffic to the Northeast. Gen Euclydes addresses the past in identifying the roots of the inflationary process (intensified), and cites the construction of Brasilia. "Today, Brasilia still costs much too much, as if the country were rich," he says.

The image of politicians is a theme that is frequently analyzed by the military, even though the analysis is done in a reserved style. The recent increase in salaries for politicians at the federal level, approved under urgent circumstances by the congress, had highly negative repercussions. The joint chief of staff, Adm Valbert, classifies as "unacceptable" the decision on the part of politicians to raise the salary of legislators in the congress from Cz$4.7 million to Cz$7.6 million. With this attitude, observes the admiral, "the politicians are at odds with their moment in history (a moment of crisis), and demonstrate an isolation from society, a true remoteness from the problems of the people." Valbert de Figueiredo affirms that the gross compensation (without withholding) of military officers—a four-star general (with more than 45 years of service), a line admiral, an Army general or lieutenant-brigadier—is presently Cz$3.2 million—adequate to living at the level of dignity that the position imposes on the individual," he says. A more acid criticism is made by Brig Camarinha: "The politicians in 1988 were only irritating. Just look at the images of them projected on TV news programs. The military are given political coverage only when the politicians fail to meet their responsibilities," he says. With irony, Gen Euclydes goes even further. He remembers, at his apartment in Copacabana, "the times when the politicians admitted to no accusation of corruption whatsoever."

Minister Moreira Lima prefers to cite the examples of countries like France, England, Germany, the United States, and Sweden, where the military are not expected to make pronouncements regarding politics. He argues, however, that "in all those countries, institutions are firm, and therefore not vulnerable to the programs of adventurists or radicals."

From his view as a "liberal political conservative," Moreira sees himself as a parliamentarian. He believes that the parliamentary system of government guarantees the stability of institutions better. "Better than a presidential system does," he says. Another question addressed by the military is the behavior of the church. The minister of aeronautics has high regard for the integrated work of the Air Force with the missionaries in Amazonia in providing aid to the population of that region. Gen Euclydes sees the clergy from a different angle. He sees the CNBB [National Conference of Brazilian Bishops] as "the political arm of the PT, through its Base Ecclesiastical Communities," while he sees as the "true church" that which performs an "evangelical" activity that agrees with the teachings of the Pope. Adm Maximiano falls between the church and the sword. That is, he does not completely endorse Euclydes' attacks on the progressive church. But, if during the 70's the critics of the church, and especially of the CNBB, were severe, today the military devotes less time to attacks on this or that bishop. The hope is that the political role of the clergy is no longer so expressive as it was at the time that the channels of communication between the society and the government were limited.

Another theme that has been analyzed is the role of the Brazilian business community. The military is in favor of greater participation on the part of the private sector in the development of the country, with less concern regarding foreign capital. With one reservation: Nothing must be allowed to inhibit the technological progress of the nation. With regard to the economic plan, the strongest attacks are directed at speculators.

The commandant of the War College, General Oswaldo Muniz Oliva, defines his position in his year-end speech. He says: "Brazil is completing a self-imposed transition period: slow, gradual, and relatively safe." He admits that such evolution doesn't happen with the "serenity one would hope for," and adds: "Every Brazilian, and mainly those who occupy the most diversified parts of the power structure, in both the public and private sectors, should act in a patriotic way."

Minister of the Army Gen Leonidas Pires Goncalves attacks the negativism of those who see Brazil as an inviable country, and compare it with countries whose realities are totally different from those in Brazil. He leaves no doubt: "Every time it is called upon by one of the powers (executive, judiciary, and legislative), the Army will carry out its mission to maintain order."

Leonidas Pires Goncalves is no stranger in the political arena, as he is sometimes imagined to be. Actually, he does not totally reject the possibility of becoming a candidate. He has been minister of the Army, at least for the past 30 years; he has a great knowledge of national problems (he has already worked at military installations in every one of the country's regions, including the Amazon), and has experienced grave political-institutional crises up close. During the time when Janio Quadros resigned, in 1961, Goncalves was part of the military cabinet. During the Castello government, he was one of the officers at the Planalto Palace. He monitored many serious events, including an attempted coup against Castello Branco, which came close to success. Everything was prepared by superior officers of the Army, with air support from the Galeao base. But a colonel, who would later be sacked through AI-5, admitted that the plan against Castello was too adventuristic.

In the last 4 years the Brazilian military has certainly intervened more with regard to important national issues than during the Geisel government. It is even influential in the economic sector. The new administrative and economic reforms, which will be unveiled in the next few days, have the support and encouragement of the military. For many of the military, the reforms should impose on the business community a package of new sacrifices that will reduce inflation.

Order of the Day: The Polemical Message-Carrier of the Military

The order of the day is an internal message to the Armed Forces, produced on special occasions such as historic days, the anniversary of the institution, and changes of command. But, beginning especially in the 60's, it became a virtual political thermometer for the country: Through the order of the day (along with changes in names and stars in the Army Almanac) it is possible to take Brazil's political temperature. This was possible so often that political columnists, even the most famous of them, Carlos Castello Branco, wound up adopting certain expressions of the journalists that covered the military area, such as the "internal public."

An analysis of the orders of the day edited during the 1964 regime, as compared with similar documents in Argentina during the military regime, shows that, in Buenos Aires, there was more radicalism and greater involvement of the military in politics: In its messages, several times the Brazilian military spoke of the "democratic commitment" of the movement, in the name of which there was a general serving as president of the Republic.

In Brazil during the 50's, the military were involved politically on the left and on the right. The "Oil is Ours" campaign brought two generals into action, Horta Barbosa and Juarez Tavora, and influenced the candidacy of General Estilac Leal for the presidency of the Military Club. Similarly, the absolute majority campaign also tried to involve them. It began when Juscelino Kubitschek won the 1955 election with very few more votes than the man in second place, who was Juarez Tavora, himself.

From March 1964 to the end of 1984, orders of the day produced in Brazil were in the form of "messages," "warnings," and "alerts." Among those that had the greatest repercussions were those of the military ministers and of the commandants: Generals Ednardo d'Avila Melo, Milton Tavares de Souza, Antonio Carlos de Andrada Serpa, Jose Luiz Coelho Neto, among others. General Serpa began his nationalist campaign at the time of the celebration of the anniversary of the General Department of Personnel of the 32d Field Artillery Group.

And the military messages were carried not only in the orders of the day. On 31 March, the anniversary of the 1964 coup, speeches were given, such as that of General Samuel Alves Correa, then head of the Army, given at the General Quarters in Brasilia in 1979. On that occasion, speaking about the causes of the 1964 revolution (among them, "a galloping, rising inflation rate of 80 per cent in 1963, with a forecast of 140 per cent for 1964, with no evidence that the government would try to contain it," and, "generalized corruption and trafficking in influence"), he said: "The Armed Forces will once again carry out their sacred duty, responding to the country's call to restore economic and social order, the principle of authority, the prestige of institutions, and the democratic ideal."

At the end of the 70's the orders of the day began to show the identification of the Armed Forces with the political opening that had already started. Messages from Ministers Fernando Belfort Bethlem, Maximiano da Fonseca, Walter Pires, Delio Jardim de Mattos, and the manifestations of others from the military, such as General Alacyr Frederico Werner, indicated that the process of political-institutional normalization was well received in the barracks.

Beginning in March 1985, the orders of the day, in general, supported the political transition. Both the Navy minister, Adm Henrique Saboia, and Ministers Leonidas Pires Goncalves and Octavio Moreira Lima gave their support. At the outset of the Sarney government, only a military pronouncement censuring the government had an impact: that of the then-commandant of the War College, Gen Euclydes de Oliveira Figueiredo Filho. The views of Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo did not even affect the routine of the barracks. Bit by bit, the orders of the day have turned back to addressing the "internal public."

From A to Z, Brazilian Military Thinking on Politics and the Country's Direction

- Argentina: A colonel who had access to information from his colleagues at Campo de Mayo, at the Buenos Aires military installations, guarantees that President Alfonsin is going to have new problems with the military. In Brazil, the Armed Forces negate any possibility that this type of rebellion will occur in this country: "Brazilian troops represent every segment of society."
- Brazil: The military ministers deplore pessimism with regard to the country. In the barracks, negativism is rejected, but concerns about the crisis are on the increase.
- Brizola: The ex-governor has already been able to reduce some of the resentment caused in the barracks by his behavior from 1961 to 1964. He has had meetings with the active military and is seeking contact with others. Not always by the easiest means, as Tancredo Neves did in 1984.
- The Center: There are fans in some of the military

cabinets for a strong candidate from the center. Navy Minister Adm Henrique Saboia believes that a succession candidate with this kind of profile may emerge, and have a chance to win.

- Dissuasion: The military support modernization of the Armed Forces. The Army already has plans for the year 2020. But the objective is to create the conditions necessary for dissuasion; that is, to be prepared for defense and for the avoidance of threats.
- Erundina: The victory of Luiza Erundina of the Labor Party, the new mayor of Sao Paulo, caused no panic in the military sector. Many officers affirm that her election is the result of popular dissatisfaction with traditional politicians, and not a new choice in favor of the Left.
- Armed Forces: At least in principle, the Armed Forces do not intend to play a decisive role in the succession. The aeronautics minister, Brig Octavio Moreira Lima, says that he "disciplines himself" not to say much about politics, much less about partisanship.
- Coup: "It isn't even discussed," says the minister of aeronautics. He says: "We want to strengthen our institutions."
- Gorbachev: The Soviet leader is the object of praise from many of the military. Brig Moreira Lima considers him "a true statesman."
- Hyperinflation: This is a word that makes the military shiver. Because it is directly related to threats to the "social peace" and cuts in programs for modernization of the military.
- The church: There is no longer so much hostility toward the progressive church as there was in the 70's, for example. But that trend is still the object of criticism.
- Jose Sarney: There is a concern among the military that presidential authority be preserved, since, according to the officers, it represents the civil power of the country. But the Planalto Palace, on the other hand, is the object of criticism because of its indecision at moments of crisis.
- Leonidas: The minister of the Army is not cited as an ideal candidate by the Armed Forces. The military prefer a civilian candidate.
- Moreira Lima: The aeronautics minister recognizes that "1988 was a very difficult year, but in the military sector, we tried throughout to preserve the country's institutions."
- Nationalism: The military rejects extreme nationalism that seeks to inhibit foreign investment. Such an option, in the view of Minister Moreira Lima, is not fitting for a country seeking to develop. Admiral Maximiano classifies prejudice against foreign investment as "a demonstration of an inferiority complex."
- Order: Should the forecasts of some economists, that Brazil will have hyperinflation in 1989 and that there will be strikes in essential sectors, be confirmed, the military will be mobilized in order to maintain order if order is compromised.
- Parliamentarianism: Probably neither Senator Afonso Arinos, who in the past 20 years has changed his preference from presidentialism to parliamentarianism, nor his colleague in the senate, Mario Covas, could have imagined: Parliamentarianism is receiving support from the barracks. Even Minister Moreira Lima says, "This will be the path we follow."
- Phase: The country is passing through a phase marked with many difficulties. But worse than that, according to some navy people, is the fact that there are people who forget that everyone is in the same boat. Minister Saboia even senses the existence of hole-borers who are interested in letting water in so that things get even worse.
- Reform: The military prefer gradual reform to rapid and traumatic change such as has occurred in Peru with Alan Garcia. Minister Moreira Lima cites the example (a good one, in his view) of the reforms promoted in England by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.
- Saboia: Like his colleagues Leonidas and Moreira Lima, the Navy minister is interested in maintaining a close relationship with the legislature. There is no expectation of a gulf between the legislators and the military, as existed in the past.
- Succession: The only man connected with the Armed Forces through his roots (aeronautics), but with technical rather than military training, who has been cited for the presidential succession is businessman Ozires Silva. His assumption of the Presidency on next November 15th has the consensual support of the military.
- Transition: The political transition toward the consolidation of the country's institutions (which, in the view of most of the military, could be completed during the next government) is seen as a commitment on the part of the Armed Forces with regard to society. "We are not an entity divorced from the rest of society, but a part of it," says Brig Moreira Lima.
- Union: The opinion is prevalent among the military that it is only through the union of many segments that the country will be able to overcome its main obstacles to stabilization, beginning with inflation.
- Valbert: The joint chief guarantees the military's complete identification with the aspirations of the people. He says, "The people want constitutionality, and we are aware of this."
- Volta Redonda: In the view of many of the military, the Volta Redonda conflict is "a page that's already been turned." Others, in speaking of that episode, remember: "Three metallurgists were killed, and there were serious injuries on both sides." But Gen Euclydes de Oliveira Figueiredo Filho is categorical: "The use of the Army was precipitate. It was the military police that should have been mobilized first, in an efficient and realistic fashion."
- Chess: The campaign for succession, in the view of military analysts, will truly be a "game of political chess." Therefore, it is still difficult to say that this or that candidate is guaranteed to win.
- Xenophobia: Restrictions on foreign investment represent a problem created by the new Constitution, in the opinion of some of the military. Gen Euclydes

confesses: he doesn't like the Constitution. And Brig Camarinha says that "it isn't responsive."

- Zeal: In Minister Moreira Lima's opinion, is it fundamental that Brazil be aware that it has to be enthusiastic, it has to care for its democracy, cultivate it, and create the bases and the political culture that will allow the institutions to become truly consolidated; it must develop the antibodies necessary for protection against demagogic populism, corruption and radicalism.

Chile

Pinochet on Constitutional Reform, Amendments

PY0802212789 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 26 Jan 89 p C-4

[Excerpts] President Augusto Pinochet has stated that "we will talk about constitutional reforms only when the various provisions of the Constitution are fully in effect and we can fully appreciate both its good and bad aspects."

Pinochet made this statement in an interview published in the latest edition, of CHILE AHORA, a magazine printed and distributed by the Foreign Ministry. In this interview, Pinochet also said that "any political constitution made by humans will have to be adjusted to the natural development of society."

He added that "we must not forget, nonetheless, that the political, social, and economic stability of the nation depends on the stability of the Constitution."

In the interview, granted a few days ago in his residence in Bucalemu, Pinochet said that the 5 October 1988 plebiscite played an important role in the process of constitutionalization. [passage omitted]

He said that the result of the plebiscite "does not change the priorities and guidelines that affected the government's actions, as it attempts to conduct the process in a consistent manner." Thus, he said, "political and legal institutionalization will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, and we will continue making efforts so that the developments will effectively benefit all people in their daily lives."

President Pinochet was then asked about the role of the Armed Forces in the future, and he answered that in addition to the traditional functions, "they will guarantee the institutional order of the Republic, which in turn reflects the values and principles on which our institutional order is based. Their mission, therefore, is to promote, safeguard, and ensure respect for the institutional order.

Australian Embassy's Occupation Reported

PY0702181189 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Four phone company labor leaders this morning entered the Australian Embassy to report the dismissals that have followed since the almost total privatization of the company. The labor leaders expect [name indistinct], who is the majority shareholder of the company, to end the dismissals and to reinstate those who have been fired. This information has been released by National Phone Worker Union treasurer Miguel Candia.

[Begin Candia recording] In the face of the rude answers from the labor minister and from government officials, we have been compelled to report to the Australian Government in search of a final solution to the problems created by Australian citizen Mr (Alan Bond) to the detriment of Chilean workers. We have made the following decisions:

A. To enter the Australian Embassy and to peacefully occupy it. This will be done by three union delegates, a former president of the union, and a member of the union's executive board who is also a CUT [Sole Central Organization of Workers] counselor.

B. To occupy the embassy until obtaining a formal promise that (?World Corporation) will grant the following demands: Paragraph F of Article 154 should not be used against phone company workers; dismissed labor delegates shosuld be immediately reinstated; and a special commission should analyze the case of each dismissed worker. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Lieutenant, Corporal Murdered in Santiago

PY0902005389 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] The body of Lieutenant Jose Luis Canales was removed shortly after 1400 this afternoon. He was murdered by four unidentified people on a soccer field at Carampangue and Alborada Streets, in the Santiago neighborhood of Quilcura. The murderers are still at large.

The prosecutor of the 5th Military Court, Rodrigo Sandoval, was at the scene. He will investigate this attack, in which a 2d corporal of the Carabineros was also killed.

Carabineros have reported that the vehicle used by the murderers to escape was found at 82 or 81 Barros Luco Street, in La Cisterna neighborhood.

Eyewitnesses reported that three men and a dark-haired girl, who participated in the attack got out of the car, a white Honda Accord. The uniformed police reported that after finding the car, they raided a house that turned out to be a hideout of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front. The house is at 9224 Benavente Street, in the La Bandera neighborhood.

According to the police, many subversive documents were found in the house.

INE Reports Monthly, Yearly Inflation Rate

PY0802225989 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 2 Feb 89 pp A-1, C-6

[Summary] The National Statistics Institute (INE) reported yesterday that the January inflation rate was 1.1 percent, bringing the 12-month accumulated inflation rate to 13.1 percent. It also reported that the wholesale price index increased in January by 1 percent over its December value, bringing its 12-month value to 6.2 percent.

Colombia

Cabinet Members Resign; Changes Expected

PA0902002589 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] A ministerial crisis has occurred in President Virgilio Barco's cabinet; 13 ministers resigned tonight. They did so because they aspire to posts in the Congress this coming year and want to be eligible.

There will be changes, reshuffles, and confirmations. Those definitely leaving are Government Minister Cesar Gaviria Trujillo, Education Minister Manuel Francisco Becerra, Communications Minister Pedro Martin Leyes, and Labor Minister Juan Martin Caicedo.

Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes and Defense Minister General Jaime Guerrero Paz will be confirmed. It is not known if the others ministers will remain or not. This is the fourth cabinet crisis during the Barco administration.

Five New Ministers Named

PA0902040789 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0232 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Bogota, 8 Feb (REUTER)—President Virgilio Barco reshuffled his cabinet today, appointing five new ministers and reconfirming eight for the final phase of his term, according to an official decree.

The reorganization occurred after the ministers presented a protocol resignation to allow the president to appoint new ministers; some of them did not want to be politically disqualified from running for a seat in Congress in the 1990 elections.

This has been the third important cabinet reshuffle since Barco took office in August 1986.

The five new cabinet ministers include two women who will hold the posts of public works and labor ministers. The others who will join the cabinet were appointed to the government, communications, and health ministries.

The outgoing ministers stated in their protocol letter of resignation that a cabinet reshuffle is fundamental to allow the government to achieve its goals in the final stage of President Barco's administration.

"We have served in a particularly difficult period of national life, characterized by situations of criminality and terrorism," the resignation letter stated.

The letter added that the resignation resulted from some of the ministers' not wanting to be politically disqualified from running for public posts. Colombian law demands that those aspiring to public posts must not have served as government officials within the last 12 months.

After the reshuffle, the cabinet is comprised as follows:

Government Minister (Interior)	Raul Orejuela Bueno
Foreign Affairs Minister	Julio Londono Paredes
Finance Minister	Luis Fernando Alarcon
Public Health Minister	Eduardo Diaz Uribe
Economic Development Minister	Carlos Arturo Marulanda
Labor MInister	Maria Teresa Forero de Saade
Mines and Energy Minister	Oscar Mejia Vallejo
Public Works Minister	Priscila Ceballos Ordonez
Agriculture & Livestock Minister	Gabriel Rosas Vega
Communications Minister	Carlos Lemos Simmonds
Education Minister	Manuel Francisco Becerra
Justice Minister	Guillermo Plazas Alcid
National Defense Minister	(Gen) Manuel Jaime Guerrero Paz

14 Kg Cocaine Seized; Seven Arrested

PA0902040489 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Feb 89 p 12-A

[Text] Twelfth Brigade troops seized 14 kg cocaine in La Esmeralda village, Belen de los Andaquies Jurisdiction, and arrested seven persons. A revolver, two shotguns, and a car were also seized.

The arrested persons are the brothers Alvaro, Angel Maria, Samuel, and Jorge Quiroga Cuellar, Reinaldo Gomez Fandino, Balbino Mota Cardenas, and Severiano Calle Corrales.

Paraguay

Foreign Minister Holds News Conference

PY0702215289 Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish 1757 GMT 7 Feb 89

[News conference held by Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana with unidentified reporters; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Argana] The candidate for the Presidency whom I will propose to the national Colorado Party convention is my friend and fellow party member General Andres Rodriguez. My entire political team, all of my friends, all of my influence, and all my years of party life shall be at the service of Gen Rodriguez' candidacy, which I consider to be the best one for Paraguay; in my opinion, Gen Rodriguez has brought about national reconciliation. He has once again revitalized the feelings of brotherhood among Paraguayans. I believe that he can bring about real democratization in our country because of the faith that he inspires and because of his moral and civic background.

[Reporter] Will the opposition need more time to get ready for the elections? They have claimed that the deadline for elections does not leave them enough time.

[Argana] Let me explain this to you. The deadline has been set by the Constitution. This might be wrong, but the Constitution's intent is to prevent the perpetuation of the provisional government by establishing that elections be called in 3 months. I do not believe, therefore, that the opposition can have any interest in extending that deadline. If the deadline is extended, no doubt the opposition will allege that the new deadline is still too soon. This 3-month deadline also takes us by surprise, because we have to reorganize bases. As you know, the Colorado Party also found itself in a situation that required that party legitimacy be restored.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Argana] Look, freedom is very interesting. The French Revolution was a great undertaking for mankind. The truth is that because the Constitution was violated. [illegible] of the institutional order of our [illegible] ary to exercise the right of revolution, which is consecrated in the UN Charter.

[Reporters] [Several indistinct questions]

[Argana] Let us keep order in asking questions.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] What will be the country's image if after overthrowing a military man another military man assumes the Presidency?

[Argana] Look, a military man is a citizen, just like any other ordinary citizen. The Constitution of Paraguay only requires that the president of the Republic be a Paraguayan citizen. If this Paraguayan citizen represents the will of the majority of the Paraguayan people, he can be president of the country. If a civilian citizen takes office by force and does not have the support of the majority of the Paraguayan people, he is a dictator.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] each party will have its own candidate?

[Argana] You ask me a question that I am not in a position to answer. What matters at this time is the government's political will that the electoral (?code) be democratic and, therefore, that all parties within the spectrum of Paraguayan politics participate in its writing. Here you may find the answer to your question.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, in your opinion, was General Stroessner a dictator? [Words indistinct]

[Argana] Look, the Stroessner government has several stages. I believe that the 32 or 33 years after 1954 were of a great government. I can assure you that I believe General Stroessner was a great president for many years. Unfortunately, in the last 2 years of his government he was surrounded by a group of totally irresponsible, voracious politicians who had no sense of reality. This hurt his government in the last years.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, you have just said that you do not want to be a presidential candidate. What post would you like to be a candidate for in the next election?

[Argana] I am going to tell you something: When the men who struggle for freedom [words indistinct] or think of political positions or jobs. Please take note that I did not want to accept the post of foreign minister. It was imposed on me by my colleagues in the struggle. I have no interest whatsoever in any public post. I have always worked as a lawyer and have been successful in my profession. Besides, I have my own personal assets.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] that you are tired of being foreign minister [words indistinct]. Don't you believe that is also necessary to be president?

[Argana] Let me get that straight. There are no difficulties. There is a newspaper campaign in the United States, but it is groundless and lacks evidence. You will see the United States recognize the government of President Rodriguez.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] in addition to being a military officer, he is also president, and commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

[Argana] The Constitution permits it and it is within the juridical order.

[Reporter] When will the Colorado Party call the convention to officially designate the presidential candidate?

[Argana] The Colorado Party this afternoon will institute a reorganization junta that will have to organize the 245 party chapters throughout the country through democratic internal elections. This is an unprecedented effort, running against time, but we believe we can do it in 30 days. These democratic, popular groups will then elect the convention delegates, who will in turn elect a new party government junta and nominate presidential and congressional candidates.

[Reporter] Is it true that some countries refused to grant asylum to former President Stroessner?

[Argana] The truth is that there were no refusals as such. Some countries, for bureaucratic reasons, delayed accepting the asylum request.

[Reporter] Which countries?

[Argana] Those countries were Chile and the United States, for instance. We had simultaneously opened other channels, and Brazil was the first country to accept our request. So we accepted the friendly offer of the Brazilian Government.

[Reporter] Is there any criterion that will exclude leftist parties from this election? [Words indistinct] the Communist Party is outlawed [words indistinct].

[Argana] I will give you my personal opinion. Leftist parties [words indistinct], but I personally would not allow the Communist Party.

[Reporter] What are your reasons?

[Argana] The reasons are dogma and doctrine. I am a professor of political science at the Law School, and though it would not be appropriate here to give a lecture on political science, my reasons are well-founded.

[Reporters] [Several indistinct questions]

[Argana] Please, let us ask questions in turn.

[Reporter] When we talked with you last Saturday, you explained that in a situation such as this, the Constitution calls for congressional elections within 3 months and presidential elections within 6 months.

[Argana] That's right. I made a mistake. It is 3 months for presidential elections and 3 months for congressional elections. You have to realize that when we talked last Saturday I had gone 3 days without sleep and had been working very hard.

[Reporter] What is your opinion of the so-called elections under the previous regime?

[Argana] Well, we are looking toward the future, and we want to forget the past. Our country must march forward, looking ahead, not behind. So I am not interested in answering that.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] about the past, since we want to know [words indistinct].

[Argana] We intend for them to be democratic.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, I would like to make a point clear. Were the elections in the past fair?

[Argana] The past is of no interest. We can talk about the future.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the Communist Party or communist ideology [words indistinct].

[Argana] Look, I want to explain this. The Paraguayan Constitution bans recognition of the Communist Party. So there is no need to argue about it; the Constitution promulgated in 1967 with the participation of four opposition parties settled the point.

[Reporter] And those parties that are not labeled as communist but which have leftist ideology can be [words indistinct]?

[Argana] Of course, why not?

[Reporter] Mr Minister, will the Colorado Party continue to be pro-government?

[Argana] If we win the election, yes; if we don't, no. Don't you think this is a logical answer?

[Reporter] Will it be necessary to be a member of the Colorado Party to get a public job?

[Argana] If we win the election, that membership might be relative, not an absolute requirement.

[Reporter] Don't you think that the presence of former President Stroessner in Brazil can pose a danger for the institutional future of the country?

[Argana] I cannot predict the future. If I could, I would not be here with you; I would buy a lottery ticket to make me a couple of million. But I believe that if we have support from the citizenry, if we hold democratic elections, and if the Armed Forces support this democratic process, we have nothing to fear.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Argana] I don't know anything. If you do, tell me. It is important.

[Reporter] Could not the presence of Stroessner in Brazil pose a danger for the stability of the government?

[Argana] Your question has been answered.

[Reporter] You have said that some countries, like Chile, delayed answering the asylum request. Does this in any way affect relations between Paraguay and Chile?

[Argana] Not at all. Please take a look at the situation. The coup took place on Friday; the request was made on Saturday. The Chilean Foreign Ministry told us that the foreign minister was on vacation. On Saturdays and Sundays you won't find anybody in a [words indistinct], even more so in the middle of carnival festivities. The lack of a rapid answer cannot be interpreted as a tacit refusal; it was simply impossible for the bureaucracy to answer.

[Reporter] How will relations be with Chile, Mr Minister?

[Argana] As perfect as relations can be between brotherly Latin American countries. I believe that Chile is an example of a friendly and brotherly country in Latin America. We will continue to be friendly and brotherly.

[Reporter] The Sandinist government has been criticized because of the Sandinist Popular Army. You have an example, [words indistinct]. Can there be democracy in Paraguay when the commander in chief of the Armed Forces is a member of a political party?

[Argana] Look, the Paraguayan Constitution states that the nation's president is commander of the Armed Forces. Since the president has to be a politician, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces in Paraguay, therefore, has to be a politician.

[Reporter] Has asylum been requested for Dr Montanaro, or what is the situation?

[Argana] Look, I don't know anything about Dr Montanaro's asylum request. I have the request for safe-conduct, and I read in the newspapers today about a petition to the court to prosecute him and his colleagues for embezzlement of public funds. I can honestly tell you, however, that I know nothing about asylum.

[Reporter] Doesn't it seems strange to you that many former authorities and people who supported the ousted regime [words indistinct] are keeping silent and [words indistinct]?

[Argana] Look, that is only logical in light of the reversal of the situation.

[Reporter] Since General Rodriguez will be the candidate for the Colorado Party, should he not retire from the Army to run for election?

[Argana] Look, General Rodriguez is not yet the candidate for the Colorado Party. He is the candidate of a group of friends. To be candidate for the Colorado Party, he will have to get his nomination at the party convention, vying with other candidates. There he will see what to do. The Constitution does not require that he retire from the Army.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, apart from what might happen in court, in light of rumors of so much corruption in government, do you see the need in a new democratic period to clear up those cases of corruption as much as possible?

[Argana] Let me tell you something. This is a very delicate matter. We are carefully studying it because we do not want to launch a persecution campaign, calling for restoration of property, for investigations of [words indistinct], before we can consolidate our democracy. Rather than seeking punishment and vengeance, we seek primarily to lead Paraguay into true democracy.

[Reporter] Minister, what could you say [words indistinct] the opposition [words indistinct] a dictatorship, a dictator has fallen?

[Argana] Well, I respect the opinion of [word indistinct], but we believe it is not a change of men, but a change of systems. It is my opinion against theirs.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] will the Colorado Party continue being [words indistinct]?

[Argana] Can't you see that a change of systems is taking place when participative political pluralism is allowed? In the past we had legal and illegal political parties; there was no freedom to meet; no parties could organize themselves. Can't you see it is a change of systems? It is elementary.

[Reporter] Will [words indistinct] the closed media open again?

[Argana] Of course. This morning the president of the Republic himself received the director of the closed newspaper ABC and the director of the newspaper ULTIMA HORA. I do not know exactly what they talked about, but I know the president favors the total reopening of the media.

[Reporter] Minister, what guarantees (were given) to President Stroessner regarding his assets and properties here in Paraguay?

[Argana] No guarantees. We have not spoken of any guarantees for any assets. He was guaranteed his personal safety and his honorable departure from the country. Nothing has been said about his assests.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] won't the fact that General Rodriguez is the president represent an advantage for his political campaign?

[Argana] As we say, the police chief's horse always has an advantage over the rest. This is unavoidable. It is, however, one of the facts of politics. Politics are the result of the coordinates of time and space, as a great philosopher has said. We are living in the coordinates of time and space, which are the reality of politics.

[Reporter] In other words, you will not negotiate with the opposition some kind of extention to prepare for the electoral process?

[Argana] No, we cannot. The Constitution establishes a 3-month term. I would have prefered a 6-month period, so that we could all prepare ourselves better, but the Constitution imposes on us a 3-month term. From now on we want to obey the Constitution faithfully.

[Reporter] What can you say of the (?arrest) of some members of the former administration?

[Argana] I do not have much information about this subject, because it is not my jurisdiction. I have been told that some military members of the previous government have temporarily been deprived of their freedom, but in view of military [words indistinct]. This problem is being handled by the military courts. The issue is outside of my jurisdiction. I am just telling you what I was told.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, how many members of the former administration have been detained?

[Argana] I do not know.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] are the current administration officials interested in putting the members of the previous Colorado executive board on trial, as proposed before?

[Argana] This question has already been asked, and I have answered that we are more interested in establishing democracy in the country than in persecutions and vengeance. I believe it is just to persecute criminals. I also believe that those who have amassed great fortunes, (?and used their influence for making money), must (?return that money). Nonetheless, this is not a priority for us, because the important thing is to reestablish democratic institutions in the country. (?We have a deadline for that task.) [sentence indistinct] We cannot sue these people.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] number of people killed?

[Argana] As I have said, I have seen reports on [words indistinct] command. In my opinion, [words indistinct] not official. The report I saw stated that 17 people had died and 30 had been injured. [Words indistinct] I believe that 30 people were killed and 50 or 60 injured. I insist, however, that I am not the right person to report on that.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the official figures?

[Argana] [Words indistinct] I do not know. If it is part of a military strategy or part of some system not to give information. I do not know. I am not answering this question because there is no information. [sentence indistinct]

New Defense Minister Promises 'Every Effort'

PY0802163589 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 2 Feb 89 p 11

[Text] Division General Adolfo Samaniego, retired, has assumed his post as national defense minister.

After being sworn in, the new minister gave a news conference and said: "I am honored to be a part of General Andres Rodriguez' cabinet. I am assuming this responsibility aware of my duties, and I can assure you that I will put every effort into it."

He asked the media "to accompany me so that I can fulfill my duties. The sacrifice made by my comrades must always mark a path of commitment and responsibility, assisting me in my duties." "I will do my best, always inspired by the Armed Forces' desire to be a bastion of defense and territorial integrity, in keeping with the national Constitution," Samaniego said.

When asked if the Presidential Escort Regiment would be dissolved, the minister said: "I have not discussed that issue. That is a decision of the commander in chief. It is an existing unit and its future is a decision of the commander in chief."

"All that is decided by the administration. I will only contribute now with the reorganization," he added.

National Accord To Request Election Postponement

PY0802225789 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 8 Feb 89 p 8

[Text] Euclides Acevedo, president of the Revolutionary Febrerista Party, has stated: "The National Accord yesterday decided to request that elections be postponed for a reasonable period. We need to establish a dialogue to guarantee, first of all, the full implementation of the people's liberties; the dismantling of the repressive apparatus; the unrestricted functioning of political parties; and a joint study of the electoral bill by the government, the opposition, and other democratic forces, including essentially a new national registration of voters. We also need assurances from the government that after the first elections a Constituent Assembly will be called, so that in 1993 we will have really democratic elections."

Regarding a report released this morning that Domingo Laino will be the presidential candidate of the National Accord, Acevedo stated: "The report is either the result of an incompetent reporter who interviewed Laino or a distortion of the facts. In front of the National Heroes

Mausoleum on 11 February [as published], Laino was named spokesman of the National Accord. To be a spokesman of the National Accord is one thing; it is quite another to be a presidential candidate."

Labor Unions Call for Legal Recognition

PY0802220289 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 7 Feb 89 p 18

[Text] The Workers Interunion Movement [Movimiento Intersindical de Trabajadores] (MIT) asked the new government to recognize many labor unions that had been deliberately ignored by the former administration's Justice and Labor Ministry.

A MIT document states: "The country is in a new phase, under a provisional administration that has promised to hold free elections and to respect human rights. In these circumstances, the democratic workers movement deems it necessary to inform the public of our points of view on several issues."

"For 4 years the MIT has been working, despite the harsh opposition of the Stroessner dictatorship, struggling for a free, democratic, pluralistic, and class-oriented unionism to defend workers' interests against the government and businessmen. The objectives of the Paraguayan Confederation of Workers (CPT) have been quite different. It has harassed the authentic labor unions, suppressed the most genuine attempts to defend the workers, and engaged in corrupt practices.

The MIT document adds: "Throughout the years the CPT has served as the labor union branch of a political party and of a totalitarian regime, betraying the interests of the working class. That is why many labor unions have abandoned the CPT."

The MIT called on all the workers of the country "to help dismantle this corrupt organization, which was expelled from national and international forums because of its subvervient attitude. We favor a fraternal dialogue with the genuine and democratic labor unions, and we urge all the oppressed labor unions to dismantle their corrupt and Stroessnerist leaderships. We believe that our current priority should be to join together to establish a sincere dialogue."

The MIT expressed its profound rejection "of all attempts to create a union similar to the CPT, which is a corporative and fascist union. The MIT supports a democratic and participative type of union. The MIT and its organizations defend the autonomy of the working class and do not accept tutelage by political parties, religious organizations, or businessmen. These are not the demands of opportunists. We have been imprisoned, dismissed, and subjected to repression to defend these demands."

The MIT also demands that "the Justice and Labor Ministry recognize the real unions—SINATRAC [National Construction Workers Union], SEOC [expansion unknown], the CAPSA [Paraguay Cotton Company, Inc] worker's union, STS [Social Workers Union], and the Urban Transportation Workers Union—and their leaders. We also demand the recognition of the MIT and FETRABAN [Bank Workers Federation], the full and legal recognition of which have been arbitrarily denied so far." The MIT also requests that "the unions' freedoms—such as freedom to organize, to hold meetings, and to negotiate—be effectively enforced, that salaries be increased so that workers recover their purchasing power, and that the union leaders who have lost their jobs be rehired."

Government Appoints, Dismisses Officials

New Mayor for Asuncion

PY0802220889 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 8 Feb 89 p 13

[Summary] The executive branch today promulgated a decree appointing Colonel Jose Luis Alder, a military and civilian engineer, as mayor of Asuncion. He has previously held positions in the municipal administration of General Pereira Ruiz Diaz, who has been appointed public works minister of the newly installed government.

Paraguayan Oil Chairman Replaced

PY0902011489 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 8 Feb 89 p 15

[Excerpt] In the presence of Industry and Trade Minister Antonio Zuccolillo Moscarda, Desiderio Enciso was installed as chairman of the board of Paraguayan Oil. On orders of the executive branch, Enciso replace Julio C. Gutierrez. [passage omitted]

New State Radio Station Director

PY0802220589 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 8 Feb 89 p 12

[Summary] Conrado Pappalardo Zaldivar, secretary general of the Presidency, has appointed Rodrigo Medina Viera as acting director of the state radio station. Medina Viera had been chief of the state radio station's press department.

Further Appointments, Dismissals

PY0802222589 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 8 Feb 89 p 12

[Summary] Through several decrees of the executive branch, the following appointments were made today: Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche as Interior Ministry under secretary; Hugo Bernardino Saguier Caballero as Foreign Ministry under secretary; Oscar Cabello Sarubbi as Foreign Ministry general director; and Desiderio Enciso as president of PETROPAR, the state oil enterprise.

Through two decrees the following officials were dismissed: Gustavo Gramont Berres, consul of Paraguay in Geneva and charge d'affairs before the Government of Switzerland; and Jorge Krisch, director of Yacyreta Binational Enterprise. Through yet another decree, Colonel Brigido Fernando Ugarte and Navy Captain Antonio Celso Quinonez Franco were confirmed as aeronautic aide and Navy aide to the Presidency, respectively.

Former Central Bank Chairman Detained at Border
PY0802233789 Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo 2220 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Reliable sources have reported that former Central Bank Chairman Cesar Romeo Acosta has been detained at the Argentine border. Security personnel detained Romeo Acosta as he was trying to enter Argentina at the Clorinda border post.

Compromising documents have allegedly been found in Romeo Acosta's possession. The documents are reportedly related to his activities as Central Bank chairman.

The place where Romeo Acosta is being held has not yet been disclosed.

We must remember that a multimillion dollar currency fraud took place during Romeo Acosta's administration. Several people involved in the fraud are still being held at the Tacumbu jail.

Aide to Former Interior Minister Arrested
PY0802222789 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 8 Feb 89 p 50

[Summary] Another vociferous member of the militant faction of the Colorado Party, Antonio Colman Rodriguez, was arrested yesterday at the Itaipu Binational Enterprise office. He was a senator and a legal adviser to Itaipu Binational, and he wrote Interior Minister Sabino Montanaro's strident speeches.

Febrerista Daily EL PUEBLO Reappears
PY0902011789 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 8 Feb 89 p 10

[Summary] The Febrerista Revolutionary Party daily, EL PUEBLO, which had been closed by General Alfredo Stroessner's regime, began printing again yesterday. Almost all the articles of the daily's first issue comment on Stroessner's ousting.

Peru

Garcia Returns, Views Debt, Other Issues
PY0502232989 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Feb 89

[Statement to journalists by President Alan Garcia in Lima on 4 February upon returning from Caracas—recorded]

Messrs journalists: I would like to inform you—and through you I would like to inform all Peruvians—about the deep satisfaction I feel over the second presidential designation of Venezuela's Democratic Action leader Carlos Andres Perez, and over the reaffirmation of the devotion to democracy and to freedom on this continent, in an event that was attended by several Latin American presidents and some European heads of state.

Over the past few days I had a chance to talk with several heads of state, particularly with the Spanish prime minister, with the U.S. vice president, with the Cuban president, and with the new Venezuelan president.

This meeting and these talks have confirmed the essential criteria that we have upheld for some time now. The first of these criteria is that the destiny of this continent is democracy, a civilized and free form of political coexistence in which there is respect for the people's right to choose their leaders and for the people's vote.

As you know, Venezuela has just begun its seventh freely elected government. This is an example that should strengthen our faith in the belief that we Latin Americans do have a democratic destiny.

In addition, based on the speech delivered by President Perez and on the consensus among the heads of state, we can conclude once again that the common problem of all our nations is the mortgage that burdens our future, that is, the foreign debt. We can also conclude that no one can repay the debt in its original terms, no one can impoverish his people to satisfy the desires of the international banking system, and that the banks themselves, nations, and world leaders are becoming increasingly aware of the fact that we must find a political solution to the debt issue.

This subject has risen repeatedly in my talks with the presidents. Everyone has mentioned the specter of inflation, the contraction of production, and the recession, these are essentially the consequences of the huge payments that must be made abroad to meet debt obligations. Everyone shares the belief that we are approaching the time when the debt will stop being a major problem on our continent. Perhaps this may be achieved by following a common path. Yet at the same time, and until that common path is found, we should make decisions to free ourselves from the serious problem of impoverishing our nations.

In this regard, the meeting has yielded conclusive results. In his speech, President Perez said that no single country can solve the problem of the debt alone. He said this is a collective problem, which is something that was not recognized in the past. He said that this mortgage on the economic destiny of our nations must come to an end.

I also met with five heads of state of the so-called Group of Eight, among them the Brazilian, Venezuelan, and Colombian presidents. We had a chance to reaffirm and reiterate the objectives of the Acapulco and Punta del Este meetings. We released the document that was drawn

up by the economy ministers in Rio de Janeiro, which has for the first time outlined a common Latin American position on the foreign debt issue and on international trade.

I believe this was an important event. We agreed on the formulas for finding a solution to the foreign debt problem. This is the first time we have agreed on a common Latin American position and this is really a historic event.

Based on this common position we have reiterated our position for a Latin American dialogue with the U.S. Government. Latin America has already made a proposal through the Group of Eight. We are going to talk with the United States, which is the leader of the industrialized countries in the world and a neighbor of our continent.

I had an opportunity to convey this proposal to President Bush through U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle during the talks we held.

The presidents of the Group of Eight countries also believe that the foreign debt should be reviewed or its real value understood. The documents of the Peruvian foreign debt, which theoretically should be worth 100 percent, have in the market, a value, which in some cases, is under 10 percent. The documents of the foreign debt of Mexico and Venezuela have a greater value but still have an average value under 50 percent.

Our proposal is quite clear. For a long time the international organizations have been demanding that if prices of raw materials such as oil, copper, silver, and wheat, be established on the basis of supply and demand, then the price of the world's foreign debt, especially the Latin American debt, should also be established this way.

The creditor countries and banks should also recognize that the debt has its value, therefore, they must understand this is the value Latin America must pay. If we do not reach an agreement on this point we will be forced either voluntarily or by the circumstances to stop paying the interest, the principal, and then stop paying the debt completely. This is a situation that is leading Latin America to a point of no return. Therefore, as we said, it is necessary that the rich countries and banks find a solution through dialogue with the creditors in order to reactivate the world market because when the large resources are in the hands of a few countries, other countries become impoverished. This situation prevents the reactivation of the world market at a time when perestroyka is leading to an economic reorganization and world disarmament will release large resources for the productive market.

These are the issues that were on the agenda of several meetings. This is the way to unite Latin America as a single continent and as a single voice, to be able to negotiate as a single force, because the more united we are the more strength we will have.

I would like to reiterate to the Peruvian people that this international policy, this presidential policy, is aimed at finding a solution to our basic problems which is important for our future. A government plan cannot disregard the foreign debt because it must understand that the foreign debt can only be solved jointly and politically.

No plan of government will succeed in promoting development unless it recognizes that it is the large areas and the large regional markets that justify industrial development and the advanced technology that we must acquire.

Consequently, our future to a considerable extent relies on Latin America's common decisions—which are channeled through the Group of 8—and on economic integration—which is to be achieved through the Andean Pact.

President Perez, President Barco, President Rodrigo Borja, and I analyzed the Andean Pact and economic integration. I believe that major decisions have been made in this regard.

The Cartagena Agreement or Andean Pact was created for the purpose of forming a large market that could justify the opening of large-scale industries. Because of political reasons and lack of conviction, however, the Andean Pact has failed to promote trade integration among our countries, because our regional market accounts for only five percent of the total trade of the five countries making up the Andean Pact. The remaining 95 percent is bought or sold outside the region.

We should think on what would happen if we decided to increase our purchases in our regional market. We would help create jobs in some countries, which would in turn help us create new jobs in our own countries through the exchange of our products.

With this idea in mind we have concluded that it is necessary to once again set in motion the Andean Pact, which will turn 20 in May. We decided to leave the political direction of the pact in the hands of the presidents, because we cannot let technocratic bureaucracies handle this political issue, which is so important for the future of our continent.

With this idea in mind we shall meet at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in May. From then on, every 6 months we will hold brief, informal working meetings, similar to the European heads of state, and we will analyze the evolution of intra-regional trade, which is the tool that will solve our problems.

I would also like to report that we have reached accords with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. I am sure that in a short-time—a few weeks—we will conclude an agreement for two very important projects that have already been analyzed by our technicians and officials.

The first of these projects is the participation of Spain, through its oil enterprises, in a consortium with Petroperu [State Petroleum Agency] for the extraction of more oil from the areas in which Petroperu is operating.

The second project involves lines of credit for buying food, which Peru will pay for with minerals. The two projects are essential for reestablishing the ties between our country and the Spanish market.

The presidential meeting received the report on the downfall of the Stroessner dictatorship almost as if it were a present. We do not yet know the leanings of the new Paraguayan Government, for which reason it would be premature to pass judgment. What all of us want is the end of that long period of darkness in Paraguay and the beginning of a true democracy that strengthens freedom and the people's right to choose their own leaders. As I said, the report strengthened the presidents' conviction that the future of the Latin American continent is freedom and democracy.

Comments on Subversion

PY0602140389 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Feb 89

[News conference by President Alan Garcia with unidentified reporters—date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Reporter, in progress]...to an arrested leader of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement mean that the government has engaged in a dialogue with that group?

[Garcia] Things should be properly clarified because one should not be influenced by reports or anecdotes. There is an essential fact: A hard blow has been dealt to subversion with the arrest of one of its principal chieftains—not a leader but a chieftain. Peru has been the target of bloody terrorist attacks. There can be no concessions for terrorists other than those granted by the law. This fact cannot be dispelled by an anecdote like the one I read in the newspapers today. The essential fact is that this arrest [of Victor Polay Campos] is a major blow to subversion. It was not merely good luck, but it was the result of work and follow-up by the intelligence services of the Armed Forces and the police. I believe this is the key point. I have seen that attention has been given to a visit [paid by Prime Minister Armando Villanueva to Polay Campos in prison] which was neither a courtesy visit nor an expression of support, but just a supervisory act, given the importance of the facts. Another objective of the visit, which for sure has already been commented on by some Communist politicians, was to observe the condition of the detainee. The visit did not mean that the detainee was granted special status. We do not grant special status to anyone, much less to these murderers who have stained the nation with blood. The full weight of the law must be strictly enforced on these individuals. Consequently, the visit by Prime Minister Armando Villanueva to the Antiterrorist Directorate does not mean that a dialogue has begun or that someone is being praised, as some ill-intentioned mass media will probably say. [passage omitted]

Labor Unions Call National Strike for 9 Feb

PY0702140089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0327 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Lima, 6 Feb (EFE)—The two most important Peruvian labor union today announced that they will hold a national 24-hour strike on 9 February against the government's economic policy and to demand a salary increase.

The strike, which is the sixth faced by President Alan Garcia's administration during its 42 months in power, was called last night by the Communist General Confederation of Peruvian Workers (CGTP), and the Confederation of Peruvian Workers (CTP), which is conducted by dissident members of the ruling APRA Party. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the strike being observed by 60 percent of the 450,000 public employees began its third week today. The public employees are demanding a wage hike and demanding the the government produce, alive, a union leader who has been missing ever since he was detained for questioning by the police. [passage omitted]

Central Bank Reserves Show Increase

PY0802131189 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Central Bank President Pedro Coronado has reported that the Peruvian gross reserves have grown following the increase of exports and the drop of imports.

According to the latest Central Bank bulletin, on 27 January the bank's gross reserves stood at $1.144 billion while the gross financial reserves totalled $1.497 billion.

Economy Ministry Strikers Demand Wage Hike

PY0602205689 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1838 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Lima, 6 Feb (TELAM-ANSA)—At midday today, hundreds of Economy and Finance Ministry workers occupied the ministry demanding a salary hike.

The entrance doors on Lima Avenue were closed by the strikers, who shouted hostile slogans against President Alan Garcia Perez' Administration.

The occupation was part of the demonstrations announced by the striking CITE [Intersectorial Confederation of State-Owned Companies Workers], who have been stating demonstrations for more than 20 days. Most of the Peruvian public administration is paralyzed by the strikes.

Strike Termed Illegal

PY0802125789 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] The Economy and Finance Ministry has declared the strike of some of its employees illegal. According to the Ministry, the strike is being sponsored by some labor unions which are not legally recognized.

The Economy and Finance Ministry states that those workers who do not return to work immediately will have broken discipline regulations and will be dealt with accordingly.

Shining Path Kills Mayor, Peasant in Hostigal

PY0502211789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2239 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] Lima, 3 Feb (EFE)—Maoist Shining Path guerrillas have killed the mayor of the small town of Hostigal, as well as two peasants, the local press reported today.

Hospital is located some 20 km from Yauyos Province, Lima Department.

The Shining Path guerrillas arrived in Hostigal last Monday morning and forced parish priest Luis Fuentes to sound the alarm in order to gather the people.

Mayor Armansio Quispe and the two peasants were brought before a "kangaroo court" by the Shining Path, and then killed by a firing squad.

According to the latest calculations made by the Peruvian Congress pacification committee, about 13,000 people have been killed in Peru since 1980 as a result of political violence.

Traffickers Detained; 51 Kg of Cocaine Seized

PY0802035089 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Excerpts] In the last few hours, UMOPAR 64th Command personnel have detained in Uchiza a Brazilian and five Peruvian drug traffickers, and they have seized 51 kg of pure cocaine, vehicles, a large quantity of ammunition, and sophisticated communications equipment. [passage omitted]

In (Cunin) street, Uchiza, the police seized 44 kg of cocaine paste, a Nissan pickup, Yaesu radio equipment and an antenna. At the same time, police detained Peruvians Nemesio Dias Silva, 30; (Cesar Paredes Sier), 22; Augusto Chan Najar, 42; Carlos Galvan Nunez, 26; and Hernan Dias Paredes, 27. (Polivan Nunes Lima), 23, a Brazilian, was also detained.

Police later seized at Leoncio Prado Street 7 kg of cocaine paste, Yaesu radio equipment with an antenna, and 100 .38-caliber revolver cartridges. (Wilmer Saldana Carden), 28, and Fernando Manuel Cama Dias, 30, were detained during the operation. Police also seized a copper-colored Nissan pickup, with license number OK 3305. [passage omitted]

Police Ambush Traffickers; Seize Cocaine

PY0502212489 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Text] A spectacular operation was conducted yesterday noon when a 39-man police patrol of the Santa Lucia detachment, reinforced by anti-narcotics police, surrounded the Uchiza Airport and waited for the arrival of two Colombian light airplanes that were supposedly carrying drugs. A tip had been received by the police.

The landing strip was subjected to continuous surveillance. A 60-man armed group of drug traffickers appeared at 1620. Apparently, the group was going to protect the Colombian light airplanes.

The drug traffickers arrived aboard several vehicles. They did not know they were being watched by the police, whom they outnumbered.

Under these circumstances, and implementing a masterly plan, the police forces appeared and a spectacular shoot-out ensued.

Surprised by the unexpected attack, the drug traffickers returned the fire, which lasted for ½ an hour.

As a result of the clash, two drug traffickers were killed and four were injured and transported to the central hospital in Tingo Maria. Meanwhile, 15 drug traffickers were arrested; the rest fled.

After the initial investigations, the captured drug traffickers were fully identified. The following Colombian citizens were involved: Florian Carvajal Tello, Mario Montes Murillo, and Roland Aramayo Diaz. The following Peruvian citizens were involved: Jaime Lemos Vera, Guillermo Aro Mendieta, Armando Sanchez Flores, Romulo Rojas Farfan, Percy Rojas Rodriguez, Raul Moretti Cordova, William Guajan Losa, Carlos Rosas Rodriguez, Fernando Garces Alvarado, Raul Beatino Bardales, Alcides Angulo Diaz, and Luis Rodriguez Castillo.

The names of the injured drug traffickers are: Jose Hernandez Vela, Cesar Vega Vilca, Pedro Arroyo Elias, and Gracian Martinez Savich.

In addition, civil guardsmen found near the Uchiza landing strip a total of 700 kg of cocaine paste ready for shipment.

Two Nissan pick-up trucks, one Toyota pick-up truck, six revolvers, two pistols, and eight shotguns of various brands were also seized.

Venezuela

Tejera Discusses Treaty Talks With Colombia

PA0802231889 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Feb 89

["Exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister Enrique Tejera Paris by reporter Martin Pacheco at the Foreign Ministry in Caracas; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Pacheco] Foreign Minister, today's media carried various reports on the Colombian-Venezuelan agreement on the reactivation of the 1939 treaty. Would you tell us what is going to be done and the reasons behind this agreement?

[Tejera] First, I was surprised to read the statements in those reports. It seems their authors have not read the agreement. The agreement does not damage Venezuela's interests; on the contrary, it defends them.

Second, I was also surprised to see that those who are making these statements—the Social Christians—are actually taking the line of the Colombian Social Conservative Party. It is a very strange coincidence.

Third, we should bear in mind the text of the agreement. The agreement—it is not even an agreement, but a declaration signed by President Virgilio Barco and President Carlos Andres Perez—proposes four things:

First: a cooperation agreement aimed at greater Latin American integration. No one could object to this. Second: the appointment of two very high-ranking commissioners from each country to discuss the problems between the two countries—the kind of problems that occur between neighboring countries. Countries that are neighbors have always had, still have, and will continue to have problems. In colonial days, the two colonies had disputes. The commissioners will suggest ways to deal with them. So far, and until the commissioners submit their suggestions, nothing has happened. All that will have been done up to that point is the presentation of a list of problems and suggestions for solutions.

Attacking a meaningless piece of paper at this moment is not fair, especially in light of the concerted effort being proposed by President Perez. They have attacked a piece of paper without waiting to hear who will be appointed to represent us. Our commissioners will be the ones to draft an agreement, and I can add that the two names being considered are not even members of the Democratic Action [AD] party.

[Pacheco] Does this mean that talks with all political parties will be held after the high commissioners are appointed?

[Tejera] Of course; we are always looking for a concerted effort. We have always sought it. I have been holding meetings all along. Persons from various political parties are participating in the working groups in the ministry. But we cannot do all this in 2 days, particularly during Carnival time. It is a serious act of irresponsibility with regard to the Venezuelan people to make it appear as if the government has signed a treaty, or something like that. We have done no such thing. All we are doing is appointing four persons to work together on these issues.

[Pacheco] Mr Foreign Minister: We understand that according to Article Two of the 1939 treaty, the vital areas are not taken into consideration. Could you please explain this?

[Tejera] That is point three: The 1939 treaty is the law of the Republic. We will hold talks in compliance with the article of the treaty that says each country will appoint two members to a commission, and the commission members will then chose a fifth member. This could take time. Nothing has happened yet: The commission members have not been selected and there are no candidates so far; and the treaty is the law of the Republic. The problem is two-fold. First, the Colombian Government rushed into a...

[Pacheco, interrupting] In an extemporaneous manner?

[Tejera] No, the treaty is 50 years old. However, the Colombian Government appointed its two members and proposed the fifth member without consulting us. Naturally, the Venezuelan Government said these matters could not be dealt with under pressure. Then the whole thing died. Colombia now realizes that this is no longer an acceptable situation and that talks must be held to choose the members and when they will be appointed. This does not seem to me to be a commitment for Venezuela. It is important to point out that the treaty specifically excludes the vital areas. There is no doubt that the Gulf of Venezuela belongs to Venezuela and that it is a vital area. We will not even discuss it, as Colombia knows.

[Pacheco] So that our listeners understand the situation, are we now going to discuss with Colombia all the problems between the two countries generally, with the exception of the gulf?

[Tejera] Excuse me, we are not going to discuss anything. First, we are going to prepare a list of the issues, and the first to see this list will be the two governments. On both sides of the border, the various political groups and interested parties will be consulted. After the list is drafted, we will search for ways to solve each point, 6 points, 8 points, 15 points, and so on. Please note that here we are always talking about the gulf, and that is an

issue that will have to be solved someday. I hope, and I am determined, that it be solved in favor of Venezuela, and nobody can talk me out of that.

However, there are some fresh water problems that are much more serious than those sea water problems. For example, the issue of the course and volume of rivers. Sixty percent of the Orinoco River waters come from Colombia. The river could dry up or the navigable volume could be seriously reduced if Colombian forests were destroyed or if the course were changed, and so on. Now, this could be settled in a friendly manner, because there are precedents and treaties in Europe on questions like this, but it is one of the most serious points to be discussed, much more urgent than the issue of the gulf.

Then there are the problems of contraband and problems affecting people living in border areas. That is why there is a fourth point to the communique—communique, not agreement; one has to be very careful with one's choice of words. That fourth point says that each country will appoint a national commission to study all the laws, problems, and circumstances that affect the life, peace, and comfort of the residents of the three large border areas that are having problems. This happens in border areas of all countries.

[Pacheco] Mr Foreign Minister: When will the Venezuelan plenipotentiary delegates be appointed?

[Tejera] I can assure you it will not be today, Mardi Gras, or tomorrow, Ash Wednesday. We have to talk with the candidates.

[Pacheco] How many candidates are there?

[Tejera] Only the president knows that.

[Pacheco] At any rate, will that work be done immediately, or over some months?

[Tejera] Many months. This cannot be done overnight. The media has created a publicity furor over this; it is a tempest in a teapot. What actually exists is a summary of a conversation between two presidents. Neither one has spoken to his people or to members of the other political parties. The two presidents just held a conversation. Now then, how do you think two presidents can meet, after having consulted 300 persons, to come up with a document that will specify what they think will be said that will be proposed. [sentence as heard] Excuse the error in grammar, but that is a future pluperfect, if I may say so.

[Pacheco] Mr Foreign Minister: Is it true that Venezuela agreed to participate with these two commission members, at Colombia's express request, because Colombia was threatening to refer the question to the International Court?

[Tejera] No, absolutely not. The idea first came up here, and besides, Colombia has not exerted any type of pressure, much less a threat. If that had been the case, we would not have done anything, because Venezuela does not act under pressure. That is why President Lusinchi did not do it. We can do it now because there is no pressure. We must not make a mountain out of a molehill. By the same token, we must not discuss such an important issue in such an informal manner. We must not give such an informal, preparatory document as a mere communique the importance that some are giving it. The communique is important for other reasons, because it starts the mechanism for peacefully solving the problems. That is important, and it is the responsibility of the two governments.

Guyana

British Engineers To Help Solve Power Problems

FL0402022889 Bridgetown CANA in English 2223 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 3, CANA—A team of engineers from the British firm Foster Wheeler and Company arrived in Guyana Thursday night to begin an emergency evaluation of Guyana's problem-plagued Kingston Power Station. Engineers from two other British Companies, GEC Turbines and NEI Pebles, are scheduled to arrive here Tuesday as part of the same exercise expected to lead to the comprehensive emergency refurbishing of the state owned power station run by the Guyana Electricity Corporation [GEC].

The teams of engineers are being rushed to Guyana in a bid to stave off the likely total shut-down of the Kingston Power Station, the GEC's main power generating operation where two of the three units are currently out of commission. Each of the three units at Kingston is capable of producing 8.5 megawatts of power. But with two units down, and the peak demand for electricity in the city and its environs at night being 38 megawats, there is a steep shortfall in the availability of power. Part of that deficit—about six megawatts—is being met by power imported from the local bauxite company at Linden 65 miles south of here and from Garden of Eden 13 miles south of here.

However, the situation is likely to be aggravated further next week when power—about four megawatts—will not be available from the bauxite company because of routine maintenance.

The critical electricity situation was explained in detail Thursday at a press conference hosted by deputy prime minister, public utilities, Robert Corbin. He explained that the government has put in place contingency arrangements in anticipation of a likely total shutdown of the Kingston Power Station. "It is very probable that the third unit now being relied on to supply what little generation we can maintain could shut down," Corbin explained.

The government he said is exploring every possible source of emergency assistance and is in contact with the United Nations' Disaster Relief Organisation [UNDRO] "especially with regard to providing assistance in maintaining essential services".

Suriname

Bouterse Accepts Invitation To Visit Brazil

FL0702194389 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Commander Desi Bouterse has accepted an official invitation from the Brazilian Government to pay a visit to the Brazilian Army. This was announced by the director of the cabinet of the commander, Mr Henk Herrenberg. Mr Herrenberg told the daily DE WARE TIJD that during the visit discussions will be held with Brazilian military authorities. While in Brazil, Bouterse will also visit military institutions.

Brazil proposes that Bouterse's visit to that country should take place in the 2d half of February. However, Herrenberg expects that the visit will be postponed to a later date because of activities here to mark the 9th anniversary of the day of the revolution. The official invitation was extended to Bouterse by the chief of staff of the Brazilian Army, Valbert Lisieux Medeiros de Figueiredo.

Government Plan for Kabalebo River Dam Viewed

PM0602173989 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 30 Jan 89 p 3

[Wim Noordegraaf dispatch: "Surinamese Government Wants Dam on Kabalebo River"]

[Text] Paramaribo—The Surinamese Government has decided that a dam will have to be built on the Kabalebo River, a tributary of the Corantijn. The construction of such a dam was part of the "West Suriname Project," halted in 1981 by [army leader] Bouterse because of the poor outlook of the energy and bauxite markets.

Exactly a year after the installation of the government of the Front for Democracy and Development, Natural Resources and Energy Minister Radakishun has been instructed to "make the necessary preparations" for the hydroelectric project.

The construction of dams in western Suriname is a hobbyhorse of Vice President Arron's Suriname National Party. He announced immediately after the elections that work on them would be resumed. President Shankar later announced a "reevaluation." It is unclear whether any such reevaluation has taken place.

In 1979, the cost of the Kabalebo hydroelectric power station was estimated at 860 million Surinamese guilders, which were then convertible into all hard currencies. The most recent Surinamese budget shows a shortfall of 272 million guilders in a total expenditure of 1 billion Surinamese guilders.

If the project is to be realized, the Surinamese Government will have to seek abroad agents able to raise the capital. Studies were prepared a decade ago by Norwegian and West German engineering companies. Critics of the plan point to the fact that the construction of dams in addition to the already existing Brokopondo dam has been left up in the air as a result of changes on the world bauxite market.

At present, the Billiton and Suralco bauxite companies are not very interested in the expansion of Suriname's bauxite production.

It is very doubtful whether the Netherlands Government is prepared to again invest development aid funds in the west Suriname project as long as returns from it remain uncertain. Before the military takeover, there was already criticism of the project in the then Netherlands-Suriname Development Cooperation Commission to the effect that the project was threatening to eat up the greatest part of development aid money. Before the project was halted by Bouterse, the Arron government had invested 300 million Surinamese guilders in, among other things, a railroad that in the meantime has been used sporadically for the transport of rubble.

The Surinamese Government has refused to disclose whether the Kabalebo Dam is included in the long-term development plan to be submitted to Netherlands Development Cooperation Minister Bukman in May.

Bouterse Criticizes Project

FL0802195589 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Commander Desi Bouterse has announced that he will present a solution model for the problem in Suriname on the (?20th) of February. The commander made this disclosure last Monday during a mobilization meeting at [words indistinct] in the Commewijne District to mark the 9th anniversary of revolution day of February 25th.

Bouterse is of the opinion that the government is stranded. According to the commander, the people will call on the government to give an account if democracy and develop

ment are not realized. Bouterse has said that a national policy, which the revolution favors, has been pushed aside. Instead there is no favoritism, said Bouterse.

The commander has strongly criticized the government's plan to restart the Kabalebo hydro-electric project. Bouterse says the project was stopped in 1981 because no experts could indicate what benefits Suriname could derive from the project. He said that this can still not be determined. The Army commander wonders in whose interest the government wants to carry out the project. He has presented that the government will have to answer to the people for all its (?misdeeds).

'Progress' in Repatriation of Refugees Noted

FL0102125889 Bonaire Trans World Service in English 1130 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] An official of the United Nations High Commission on refugees says progress is being made in repatriating Surinamese refugees from French Guyana. Gordon Lennox made the comments in Paramaribo yesterday following several days of talks with Surinamese officials. Suriname, France, and the United Nations organization are working together to speed the return of some 9,000 Surinamese refugees who fled there to escape the civil war going on.